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Table with international news rates for various countries including Abu Dhabi, Albania, Andorra, etc.

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David Sharrock profiles Sinn Fein's leader

Is Adams finished?

G2 with European weather



OnLine

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Blair rejects 'escort and closed doors' offer to read Scott report

Michael White and Richard Norton-Taylor

AN OUTRAGED Tony Blair last night led a clutch of eminent parliamentarians in rejecting the Government's offer to see the Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair in a "controlled environment" which would require MPs and peers to be cut off from outside contact and have an "escort" outside the door.

and stagger back into the chamber to hear Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, deliver the Government's \$1 million defence to Labour's designated spokesman and chief parliamentary hitman, Robin Cook.

Because only one Labour MP is being allowed prior access, Mr Cook, who was due to handle Labour's media response, has also had to take over the Commons statement from Margaret Beckett. He complained last night: "The Opposition are now being treated like common criminals."

Rough guide to Cook's solo tour

Mr Cook will be escorted by an official throughout his visit to read the report "for his own convenience and security". He will be taken to a room, and the escort will be "just outside the door".

offer as did his Labour counterpart, Lord Richard. The two former senior ministers have described the conditions as amounting to a "padded cell or sealed capsule", and as deeply insulting to privy councillors who have held secrets of state for many years.

ry's secretary, told Mr Lang on the phone's behalf. The judge also gave Mr Lang a stinging rebuke for suggesting that favourable treatment should be given to the former foreign secretary, Lord Howe, and the former trade minister, Lord Trefgarne.

Yellow card for Sun

Andrew Cull Media Correspondent

THE Press Complaints Commission fired a warning shot at the Sun yesterday over its coverage of an intercepted telephone call involving the Duke of Edinburgh.

Ulster fear as troops return

David Sharrock and Owen Bowcott

THE Government will today restore troop numbers in Northern Ireland to almost pre-ceasefire levels amid heightened fears of a return to violence in the province following the IRA's bombing of the Isle of Dogs in London's East End.

contacts with Sinn Fein are to be resumed tomorrow, only at civil servant rather than ministerial level — a sign of Dublin's uncertainty about the intentions of the republican movement.



Falls apart... Deirdre McAliskey, daughter of the former MP Bernadette, and Jonathan Taylor, son of John, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, are two of the candidates in the forthcoming election for president of Queen's University Students Union in Belfast

Buckingham Palace had expressed concern about the story, which the Sun called "Dukegate" and ran as a world exclusive on January 30. The newspaper did not run a transcript of the 17-minute conversation, but hinted that it included talk about members of the royal family and other sensitive issues.

Revival boosts Tory poll hopes

Unemployment at 5-year low as Bank concedes on interest rates

Larry Elliott, Richard Thomas and Sarah Ryle

GOVERNMENT hopes that a pick-up in the economy will wipe out Labour's poll lead over the next 12 months were given a boost yesterday when unemployment figures fell to a five-year low and the Bank of England effectively gave the green light for further interest rate cuts.

offers the Chancellor every opportunity to cut rates. It's the closest the Bank of England comes to a U-turn. In its quarterly Inflation Report, the Bank confessed it had been wrong to forecast that inflation would breach the Government's 2.5 per cent target for the end of this Parliament, noting: "It is now clear that the pace of economic growth since the end of 1994 has been slower than first thought."

findings today of the Scott inquiry. The Chancellor seized on the Bank's report, dropping a clear hint that interest rates will come down again to coincide with the start of the spring house-buying season and the local elections in May.

Three millimetre protester threatens Newbury bypass

John Vidal



THE road builders of Newbury, who have employed security guards, bailiffs and obscure legislation in their battle against protesters, appear to have finally met their match in a three millimetre eco-warrior.

lished survey, commissioned by English Nature from an independent expert last November, found the snail on 19 sites in the flood plain of the rivers Kennet and Lambourn which the bypass must cross.

English Nature yesterday denied the snail had been found on the bypass route but admitted the expert had not looked there. "We are excited about the discovery, but we don't feel the bypass will have any direct effect on the important populations of the snail," said Graham Steven, a conservation officer.

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Sketch

MI5 and the view from the bull bar



Simon Hoggart

THE Home Office minister David Maclean denounced last Friday's IRA bomb. It was, he said, "cowardly and outrageous". Well, yes and no. Outrageous, certainly. Lethal, disgusting, vicious, psychopathic too. One might add stupid and pointless.

But not cowardly. I've said it before, but it's worth repeating now and again — there are very few cowardly IRA terrorists. The risk of death and injury — often inflicted by your own side — is rather higher than it is for, say, schoolteachers, MPs or even coal miners. You also stand a good chance of being banged up for a long time.

I'm not blaming Mr Maclean. This "cowardly and outrageous" phrase is a formula ministers feel obliged to repeat. But it is not just semantics either. People who join the IRA believe that they are engaged in a mighty moral crusade; from their point of view, the only crusade worth fighting.

They think of themselves as heroes. When they die, which happens frequently, they are treated as heroes, welcomed, under a tricolour, back to the bosom of Mother Ireland. There are military funerals, columns of admiring death notices, and fulsome eulogies.

You and I probably find this sort of mind set, odious and perverse. But they don't, and as long as we fail to comprehend their culture and their emotions, we will find it very difficult to defeat them.

Sorry about that. I will now return to trivial and meaningless criticism.

The House was discussing the Security Service Bill, a controversial measure which allows MI5 to take over some police work. The theory is that with the Cold War over, they are at a loose end. One might think they would be better employed helping the Ser-

ious Fraud Office, but where's the glamour in that? Instead, they are to look into organised crime.

Alan Beith, the Liberal spokesman, pointed out that despite all the argument, the bill would probably affect no more than 15 people. This was exactly the number of MPs who were present in the chamber for the debate.

Mr Beith has a faintly MIS-hissed. Thanks to John Le Carré, we know that modern intelligence agents are not James Bond types, drinking Dom Pérignon in bed with beautiful girls.

Most of us are rumpled figures in ill-fitting suits, who spend their time drinking tea with elderly secretaries.

They have a wary admiration for their nominal enemies in Moscow Central, and reserve their hatred and conspiratorial skills for plotting against their own colleagues. In this respect they closely resemble the Labour Party.

Alan Michael, Labour's spokesman, paid tribute to the Government's help. He warmly praised ministers' adaptability and open-mindedness. Over in Conservative Central no doubt some grizzled apparatchik in a suit even worse than Mr Michael's chuckled in appreciation.

Mr Beith thought that the bill should be slowed down. This would send a signal to the IRA that the fight against terrorism would go on. Mr Maclean thought that if the bill were delayed, this would send a signal to the IRA that it was on the agenda for the House.

Even Ralltrack can get its signals sorted out better than the Commons.

Earlier, Paul Flynn (Lab, Newport W) got an unopposed first reading for a bill to ban "bull bars" from car radiators. He said they had probably killed around 70 people, by concentrating the shock of the impact, "like ladies prouetting in stiletto heels are the equivalent of an elephant".

Suspicious that this was yet another reference to the cover of Edwin Currie's novel (A Woman's Place, Hodder, £16.99) gave way to a realisation that this was another coded attack over the Scott report. When Mr Flynn started talking about the need for a "crumple zone", we realised it almost certainly was.

First night

A triumphant but terrible return

Denis Staunton

Medea Schaubühne, Berlin

RARE, almost forgotten sense of excitement has gripped the Berlin theatre with the triumphant return of Edith Clever to the stage of the Schaubühne after 13 years. For 13 years Clever was the leading tragic actress in Peter Stein's remarkable company, dazzling audiences with her unpredictable but technically perfect interpretations of the great female roles in Greek tragedy.

She has had an eccentric career since leaving the Schaubühne in 1984, touring Germany with strange, one-woman shows and directing groups of drama school students. Now she is back at the invitation of the Schaubühne's artistic director, Andrea Breth, as both star and director of Euripides's *Medea* and Berlin is again at her feet.

Before we see Clever's *Medea*, we hear her scream. It is a terrible sound, held for so long and striking a note so far beyond the usual register of pain that it seems to be neither animal nor human, physical nor emotional, but psychic.

When she appears, she is draped in a white cloth, her face smeared with white paint and framed by long auburn ringlets. Her voice is low and controlled, her gestures small and precise and yet she is terrifying, a woman who has channelled her limitless grief into a murderous design against the man who has betrayed her.

Clever's production is an all-female affair, from the director to the designer, Susanne Raschig, and the composer, Robin Schul-kowsky, who has created a magnificent percussion soundtrack as we are composed songs for the five-strong chorus of Corinthian women. But there is no attempt to present *Medea* simply as a victim of the patriarchal society in which she lives. Peter Stein's *Medea*, a warrior gone to seed with a paunch straining against his leather armour, is not so much selfish or wicked as naive and unimaginative.

Clever's *Medea* is gripped by an almost mystical urge for vengeance which leads her to ignore the advice of the chorus, of the nurse, played with great tenderness and subtlety by Elisabeth Orth, and of her own judgment. In an inspired move, she allows the children to be represented by tiny white statues, enabling the audience to move beyond simple horror at *Medea*'s infanticide and to engage more directly with the psychological complexity behind it.

As *Medea* ascends into the heavens in an electrical sun chart powered by a giant propeller, the play ends as it began with a terrible cry of pain, this time from a devastated Jason. The audience is left reeling, neither condemning *Medea* nor sympathising with her, but awestruck by a destructive force that no human can control.

Clever's *Medea* is part of a season of Greek plays at the Schaubühne. After more than five years of gloom and dis-orientation, one of Europe's great theatres is at last on the brink of a glorious rebirth.

Singapore link for Iran arms was known to MoD, MPs told

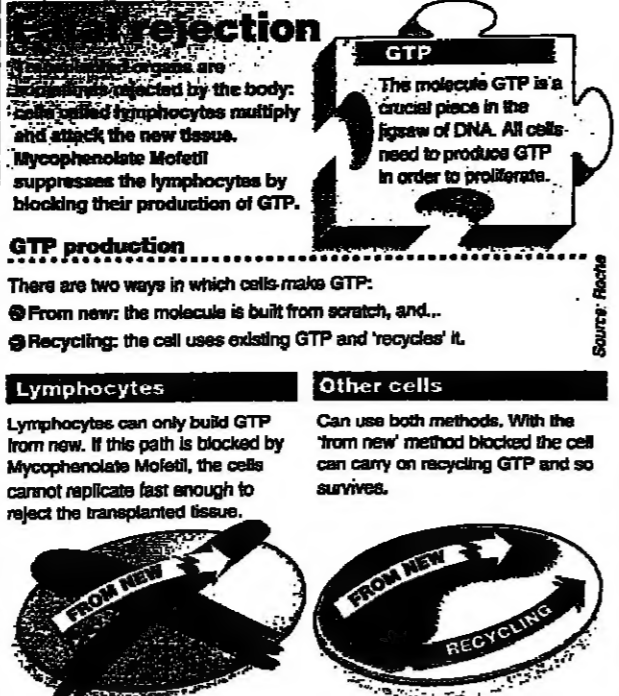
David Pallister

MINISTRY OF Defence officials yesterday admitted to MPs investigating the illegal diversion of British arms to Iran that Singapore was a known conduit for transferring weapons to the Tehran regime in the 1980s.

Ian McDonald, head of the Defence Export Services Sec-

retariat, said publicly had alerted MoD officials to the fact that the Swedish firm, Bofors, had diverted weapons via its Singapore subsidiary.

But he said that only individuals and companies were responsible, making it difficult to decide which countries might be acting as an illegal conduit. "The Singapore government was found not to be involved."



New drug 'to cut organ transplant rejections'

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

A NEW drug which can halve the rejection rate in transplanted organs was yesterday described as the most exciting development in transplant medicine for a decade — but sparked fears of new cost burdens on the NHS.

Doctors said the drug, which will cost about £3,000 a year for each patient, could help stop rejection within the first few weeks of a transplant, the cause of one in 10 failures.

It is also hoped the drug will prevent longer term rejection, or at least slow the rate at which it occurs. About half of kidney transplants fail within 10 years due to rejection problems.

Nell Parrott, consultant transplant surgeon at Manchester Royal Infirmary, said: "I think it is the most exciting development in transplantation in the last decade. It marks the beginning of a potentially new era in transplantation."

Specialists said although the drug would increase initial transplant costs, it could lead to significant savings over the longer term, as well as saving lives, by preventing second or third transplants, or a return to expensive dialysis.

Although most of studies into the drug have involved kidneys, researchers said it should also prevent rejection of other organs such as the heart, lungs and liver.

The drug has the chemical name mycophenolate mofetil, but will be sold by the manufacturers, Roche, under the trade name CellCept. It is

expected to receive a British licence within the next few days but has been available in the United States since July last year, where half of all new transplant patients now receive it.

The drug has a different way of working to existing anti-rejection drugs, dampening down the immune cells which attack transplanted organs as foreign. It is expected it will be given alongside existing drugs, such as cyclosporin, rather than replacing them.

Mr Parrott told a press conference in London, organised by Roche, that studies involving 1,500 kidney transplant patients in the US, Europe, Canada and Australia had shown that within the first year the frequency of rejection problems had halved. Rates had fallen from between 40 to 50 per cent for patients on existing drugs to 15 to 20 per cent in patients taking CellCept. The need for additional anti-rejection treatment was cut from 44 per cent to 24 per cent.

Mr Parrott said patients who suffered initial rejection problems were also those who were most likely to suffer long-term problems. "This drug has the promise to reduce chronic rejection."

Mr Parrott said that even if the drug doubled the annual costs of immuno-suppressant therapy to around £6,000 a year, this would still be a dramatic saving compared with seeing kidneys fail and patients return to dialysis, which could cost between £15,000 and £20,000 a year.

With other transplant organs, failure was likely to mean death.

Christopher Rudge, consultant transplant surgeon at the Royal London Hospital, said



The need for further transplant operations such as this or a return to dialysis could be cut substantially if the experts' hopes are borne out

Treasury's unhealthy debt

Civil servant's sickness blamed for worst late payments record

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

ONE sick civil servant was responsible for the Treasury's worst record of paying bills on time, says Angela Knight, economics secretary to the Treasury.

Her claim follows the disclosure to Barbara Roche, Labour's small firms spokeswoman, that 25 per cent of Treasury bills were not paid on time. The second worst record was at the Department of Trade and Industry when 18 per cent of bills were paid late when Michael Heseltine was Trade Secretary.

In a letter to Mrs Roche, Angela Knight says: "I am sorry to say that a member of staff fell sick in 1994-95 and, although others took on his

private dinner that he deliberately delayed paying creditors when he was in private business.

This spread to Whitehall's record when Ian Lang, the Trade and Industry Secretary, disclosed that late payment at the DTI nearly doubled when Mr Heseltine was in charge from 1992-95.

"This servant's illness caused an increase in improved sampling techniques to detect unpaid bills."

Mrs Knight defended the system of checking late payments, including a complex explanation of sampling arrangements by the Treasury. Mrs Roche described this as "gobbledygook". She said: "I now understand why small firms complain about the lack of clarity in information received by government departments."

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, is to ask his auditors to examine Whitehall's record on bill payments.

Economic revival boosts Tory poll hopes

continued from page 1

said in a BBC Radio interview.

"I am not content with the present level of unemployment — plenty more people listening to us would like to have a more secure job and would like to see more jobs still being created."

Consumer spending has shown signs of picking up since mortgage rates started to fall last autumn, and the Government believes this trend will be re-inforced by tax cuts, windfalls from building society mergers, the proceeds from maturing Tessa savings accounts, and the steady fall in unemployment.

January's 29,300 decline in the seasonally adjusted number of people out of work and claiming benefit brought the cumulative fall since December 1992 to 772,700. The new total of 2,205,800 was the lowest since April 1991, while the rate dropped from 8 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

Despite the steady fall in the jobless figures, workers have struggled to secure bigger pay packets. Central Statistical Office figures showed that average earnings grew by 3.25 per cent in the year to December, unchanged for the past six months.

The fear of stronger demand for labour creating inflationary pressure has been one of the Bank's central con-

cerns over the past 12 months. However, its report yesterday concluded: "Our judgment is that it is a little more likely than not that inflation will be somewhat below 2.5 per cent in two years' time."

Labour said the fall in the jobless total obscured the growth of insecurity in the workforce. Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said: "We are seeing the consequences of economic weakness, not strength. The Bank is far from optimistic on the prospects for growth and inflation — and the report shows why. Economic growth and exports have been weaker than expected over the past year."

chronic rejection is becoming one of the most important issues in transplantation," he said.

There are additional problems for patients who have had one transplant fail, because defence cells produced against the first organ make it harder for subsequent organs to be accepted.

Some kidney patients can happily live with their donated organ for 20 years or more, while others have to undergo renewed transplants every two to three years as the organs fail.

Mr Rudge said the costs of the new drug would have to be justified to the NHS, but he believed there was a clear case for its use. If it did reduce organ loss over time, there would also be a clear economic case.

"The balance has to be whether a bigger initial outlay will produce long-term savings. I personally think savings will come from it. At the moment, emergency anti-rejection therapies can cost £2,500 for just 10 days treatment."

At the end of January this year, 5,101 people in Britain were waiting for kidneys, 521 for hearts, 234 for lungs and 143 for livers.

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Double blow for nuclear sell-off

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie

GOVERNMENT plans to privatise nuclear power were dealt a double blow last night when it emerged that the European Commission is investigating whether illegal state aid has been paid in the £2.5 billion sale and safety inspectors attacked the industry over the handling of atomic waste.

Karel van Miert, European competition commissioner, has written to the Department of Trade and Industry demanding assurances that state aid will not be used to smooth privatisation and boost the Government's proceeds from the sale.

In letters sent last month, the EC's competition directorate calls for the DTI to answer a series of searching questions on possible misuses of state aid to sweeten the sell-off planned for this summer.

Allegations that the Government could be forced to use state funding to prepare the industry for sale were first drawn to the Commission's attention by Friends of the Earth. Colin, a group of local activists opposed to nuclear power, and the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University.

They allege that Nuclear Electric has accelerated payments on its huge nuclear clean-up bills ahead of privatisation to ensure stations will pass into private hands with their liabilities cut by £50 million. Effectively the taxpayer will be left "demonstrably worse off", they claim.

FOE and Cola also suggest that the Government could try to off-load more than £5 billion of the clean up bill for the stations being privatised. Such a move would please investors and boost receipts from the sell-off.

The DTI confirmed last night that it was in discussion with the Commission, but insisted there would be no use of state aid in the sale. An official said ministers were determined to transfer all relevant clean up costs to the private sector.

In addition, safety inspectors warned British Nuclear Fuels that storage at Sellafield and Drigg in Cumbria were "less than satisfactory".

In an extensive audit, the pollution and nuclear installations inspectors warned BNFL that discrepancies had also been found in the records of radioactive waste.

Although BNFL is not being privatised, MPs investigating the industry sale have raised fears that waste disposal proposals are inadequate.

Sellafield is the store for most of Britain's intermediate level waste.

A spokesman for the inspectorate said last night that the waste, if not stored correctly, could produce hazardous radiation levels. But the problems at Sellafield were not considered serious enough to pose an immediate risk.

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Serbs sever links with Nato force

Julian Borger in Zagreb

NATO'S peacekeeping mission in Bosnia was in deepening trouble yesterday after a civilian bus came under fire in a Serb suburb of Sarajevo, and Serb forces broke off their remaining contacts with Nato troops after the extradition of two of their officers to the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The United Nations-sponsored tribunal stressed its impartiality and announced it would soon issue its first indictments against Bosnian Muslims. But it was unclear yesterday whether this would succeed in calming tensions.

Three people were wounded when a bus heading into Sarajevo was hit by at least four bullets as it passed through the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza, witnesses and Bosnian officials said. It was the first day buses had operated along the route since the war began, and the attack may have been to disrupt reintegration of the city.

Serb residents of Sarajevo are resentful of the transfer of Ilidza to government control. Tensions have been further stoked by the extradition of two Serb officers, General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krstanovic, from Sarajevo on Monday night.

The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic — who is wanted by The Hague tribunal on charges of war crimes and genocide — yesterday denounced the extradition as an "international disgrace".

The Bosnian Serb army broke off high-level contacts with the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-FOR) after the two officers were arrested by the Bosnian police in late January. But since they were whisked off to The Hague under Nato guard, the Serb boycott has spread.

A Nato spokesman in Sarajevo, Colonel John Kirkwood, said fewer Serb officers were turning up to meetings with their I-FOR counterparts. "We have evidence that Bosnian Serb liaison officers are packing their bags and departing from some locations. In other places they seem to be standing by, awaiting further orders," he said.

Meanwhile, Nato liaison officers were recalled from the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale, apparently for lack of anyone to hold talks with.

Nato officers said they

hoped the breakdown in contacts was temporary. They said many Serb officers had expressed regret at the boycott.

Nato is clearly struggling to reconcile its peacekeeping duties with its obligation under the Dayton peace agreement to hand over to The Hague any war crime suspects it finds.

On its arrival in December, it initially ignored the war crimes issue. But after reports that Mr Karadzic had driven a cavalcade past Nato checkpoints unhindered at the weekend, the United States defence secretary, William Perry, announced that more information would be distributed to I-FOR troops. Yesterday, senators expressed outrage at the checkpoint incident.

Nato officials in Brussels said yesterday that the alliance's 16 ambassadors had ordered I-FOR commanders to make its 80,000 troops fully aware of their duty to "appre-

Nato is struggling to reconcile peacekeeping with a duty to hand over war crime suspects

hend known war criminals where possible". Nato is also considering setting up its own road blocks.

But ambiguity still surrounds Nato's role. It insists its troops will not take part in a manhunt, nor run "undue risk" to arrest suspects.

Part of the problem, Nato officers say, is that 45 out of the 52 suspects indicted by The Hague are Serbs, and the remainder are Croats. The pursuit of war criminals risks tainting I-FOR's impartiality in Serb eyes.

Yesterday, apparently in response to US pressure, the chief prosecutor at The Hague, Richard Goldstone, announced he would issue the first indictments against suspected Bosnian Muslim war criminals "in the coming weeks".

In a public statement, Justice Goldstone said he would investigate and prosecute suspected war criminals "irrespective of the political or ethnic group to which they belong".

Hugo Young, page 9



Piglets in Yorkshire which have so far escaped the clutches of rustlers

PHOTOGRAPH: TIM SMITH

Pig rustlers start to bring home the bacon



Mark Fothergill, pig unit manager at Retford, which lost 262 piglets to rustlers

Rogue farmers suspected as 500 piglets disappear in night raids, writes David Ward

THIS little piggy went to market; this little piggy stayed at home and this little piggy was rustled, loaded into a truck at dead of night and sold off to ease Europe's pork shortage.

More than 500 piglets worth an estimated £25,000 have been stolen this week in night raids on farms in Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire and Humberside.

In the most recent illicit round-up, thieves took 262 animals worth up to £50 a head from a one-acre field near Retford, in Nottinghamshire, used by Richard Longthorpe, who also has a farm in Bowden, North Yorkshire. He described the theft as despicable.

"It must have taken four or five men using a four-wheel drive vehicle and trailer to remove my piglets," he said. "A one-ton bale of hay had to be moved to make a gap in the fence

and it would have taken the gang over an hour to carry out their dirty work." He blamed a rogue farmer desperate to make a killing while prices are at a premium.

John Sleightholme, of Wold Newton, Humberside, lost 163 four-week-old piglets in a raid in which rustlers cut gate padlocks and drove up to pens in a lorry.

He also suspects a crooked farmer. "Whoever took them must have some knowledge of pig keeping otherwise they would die," he said. "They knew what they were after because they chose the youngest, quietest and least troublesome."

The price of pigs was in the trough 18 months ago but has since soared, partly because Japanese diners have acquired a taste for pork. Most of Denmark's production now goes to the Far East and other farmers

are struggling to meet European demand, which has risen as suspicion of beef and BSE has grown.

Harry Albright, spokesman for the National Farmers Union, said that farmers were moving their pigs into open fields ahead of legislation, which from 1998 will outlaw the use of individual pens for sows. "Rather than convert buildings, it's more economical to keep pigs outdoors," he said. "But then the animals become more vulnerable to theft."

Sheep and goats have a tagging system of identification to foil rustlers, but young pigs are considered too small to be tagged or branded. Video cameras and bright lights are considered an impractical deterrent.

Historic hogs

- The earliest record of pigs is from a Chinese scholar who estimated that his people started domesticating swine around 2900 BC
- The pig was held sacred by ancient Cretans because Zeus had been suckled by a sow
- A Large White, owned by H.S. Peddingham, farrowed 385 piglets in 22 litters from 1923-34
- The world's largest pig is thought to have been a Poland-China hog, named Big Bill, which weighed 1,157.5kg (2,552lb) just before being put down after breaking a leg in transit to the China World Fair in 1933. Big Bill stood 6ft tall and was 5ft long

Keating softens line on republic

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

THE beleaguered Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, played an electoral trump card yesterday in proposing a more politically acceptable model for replacing the British monarch with Australia's own head of state.

Mr Keating, launching the Labour Party's re-election campaign, revealed a revised republican plan to stage a non-binding plebiscite within Labour's first year of office.

The move, which was praised by the republican movement but attacked by the opposition, is a calculated

backdown from Mr Keating's previous commitment to an immediate referendum.

"If re-elected, we will ask the Australian people what they think about the question: 'Do you want an Australian to be Australia's head of state?'" he said in Melbourne.

The prime minister, who is behind in opinion polls in the run-up to elections on March 2, reaffirmed his target date of 2000 for replacing the monarch and her Canberra representative, the governor-general.

This would mean an Australian head of state could open the Sydney Olympic Games in September 2000.

Mr Keating said that after the plebiscite he wants a joint parliamentary committee to draw up the options for a referendum on republicanism.

This would have to be passed by a majority of voters in a majority of states.

Mr Keating's plan would still see the head of state elected by a two-thirds majority of the federal parliament, despite opinion polls showing most Australians want a directly elected president.

But Labour officials said the proposal should overcome widespread objections to Mr Keating's personal involvement in the process.

The opposition leader, John Howard, claimed the plan could be a "ridiculous situation" of people opposed to the republic voting Yes in a plebiscite because they believed the governor-general was already an Australian head of state.

"We would be in [a] constitutional limbo, with no way of breaking out of it because what he proposes is an utterly illogical way," he said.

But the Australian Republican Movement was glowing in its praise. Its chairman, Malcolm Turnbull, said the plan was democratic, open and bipartisan.

The Democrats, who hold the balance of power in the senate, welcomed the plan but said Mr Keating must guarantee the people a voice in choosing a head of state.

Poetry Society caught in the tangled Web of on-line libel

John Ezard

THE Poetry Society — founded in 1909 to further one of the world's oldest forms of communication — has become the target of the first libel action over material on the newest medium, the Worldwide Web.

The society said last night that it would vigorously defend itself against a High Court writ from a small Perth publisher demanding aggravated damages.

The dispute is about one of the most ancient themes of poetry, vanity. The firm, Forward Press, has launched the action over an article in the

society's quarterly magazine, Poetry News, headed Vanity Presses and Dodgy Competitions.

The article was republished in the society's Poetry News Stand on the Web. The writ says it was "capable of being read by an unquantified but vast number of subscribers, potentially numbering millions of people around the world".

Forward Press claims that, to offset the article accused it of being in the lucrative business of "preying on poets who cannot otherwise get their poems published".

It is said to allege the firm was cynically providing a dishonest and exploitative service which "cruelly deceived" aspiring poets by swindling them out of large sums of money in return for publishing their work in anthologies of poor quality and little literary merit. The article allegedly suggested schoolchildren were targeted in a "pernicious scam".

The writ maintains Forward Press is recognised as an influential, authoritative publisher which "is not and never has been in the business of vanity publishing. It asks for a court injunction against further republication of the article."

Chris Meade, Poetry Society director, said they had a £147,000 yearly Arts Council

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One-Year	£24	£27 ecu 32.40	£30 \$45	£32 \$48
Two-Year	£40	£45 ecu 54	£50 \$75	£55 \$82.50
Three-Year	£54	£61 ecu 73.20	£66 \$99	£75 \$112.50

EuroBusiness

The long marriage of Church and state has produced a situation where the Church itself is now the adulterer, promiscuous in its interests. Why can't it just stay at home and look after the family and only come out in its Sunday best? Why can't it just read the Bible instead of the newspapers?

Suzanne Moore

£2 page 7

Double blow for nuclear sell-off
 ISABETH SHUE
 GAS
 ENVIDE

Guildhall closure risk as wide savings demanded

Budget threat to university's future

John Carvel
Education Editor

LONDON'S Guildhall university may be stripped of its government grant from April unless its 1,000 staff accept an emergency package of cuts, including reduced teaching resources for the students, the Higher Education Funding Council said last night.

Roderick Floud, the provost, has prepared a five-year rescue plan to prevent his institution becoming the first university to founder under higher education cuts imposed by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Proposed annual savings of more than £2 million are understood to include less staff contact with students, abolition of the faculty structure and removal of top management posts. The package will be discussed with lecturers and other staff in the next few days, before the governing body takes a decision on March 22.

A funding council spokesman said it would "need to be reassured the university is taking appropriate action to safeguard the continued investment of public funds and

the continued delivery of teaching and research... The continued provision of grant relies on that."

Guildhall university, formerly the City of London polytechnic, occupies nine sites in and around the City, and recently awarded an honorary doctorate to Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England.

The management consultants Coopers and Lybrand warned in November that it was heading for a £300,000 deficit by the end of the financial year. Professor Floud said this rose to £1 million after the discovery of a bill for building maintenance.

The consultants said Guildhall should aim for an annual surplus of £2 million by 1996/97 (about 5 per cent of income) to invest in new developments and augment reserves. That became harder to achieve after budget cuts affecting all universities which have led to a threat by vice-chancellors to impose a £300 registration fee on students.

According to a paper circulated among lecturers by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, the latest version of cuts at Guildhall was presented to the funding

council by John Sellars, vice chairman of the governors.

"He stated that the funding council have threatened to close the university by withdrawing funding unless its recovery plan (which must now be a five-year plan) meets with their approval."

The cuts "would now appear to threaten academic staff with redundancy," it said.

But Ian Lafferty, the branch chairman, was more optimistic about the management's plan, saying: "I am convinced we have the basis of a recovery plan which will allow us to come out leaner and healthier so we don't have recurring crises and do have money for investment. I believe we can do that without compulsory redundancies."

Staff appeared anxious not to create a panic among students and suggesting the university is unviable. Guildhall looked particularly fragile because it happened to be the first to draw up a recovery plan since the Chancellor's latest round of cuts.

"I suspect many other universities will need recovery plans due to income deficits. We happen to be in the middle of one and the funding council has to make sure it will work", Mr Lafferty said.



The Synod debates the call for a flat rate of pay for all priests PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BRILLIOTTE

Synod turns down cut in 'fat cat' pay

Madeline Hastings
Religious Affairs Editor

THE Church of England General Synod yesterday defeated a motion to scrap pay differentials between bishops and vicars after a plea from the Bishop of Chester, who said his stipend had not stopped him from plunging into debt.

Members of the Anglican governing assembly called for pay cuts for the Church's "fat cats" in a debate in London on the private member's motion tabled by the Ven John Packer, Archbishop of West Cumberland. They said all ordained priests should be paid a flat rate.

But the Rt Rev Michael Baughen, Bishop of Chester, defended "over-worked" bishops against press attacks alleging lavish lifestyles and big houses. "It is hurtful to read headlines about getting bishops out of their houses when we live in a little room above the formal rooms, with little home life. We look at many vicarages with envy."

"We spend hours doing the washing up and lugging the shopping back from Tesco's every week, on top of spending 100 hours doing Christ's work."

He described the hardship of surviving on the £24,950 a year paid to the 44 diocesan bishops. "The first shock of managing a big house was the gas bill - £1,000 for a quarter and we were plunged into debt. Furnishing the place drained every penny. It is draining financially, catering for other people."

The average stipend of incumbent priests is £13,450. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York get £47,760 and £41,940 respectively.

The Rev Stephen Trotter of Peterborough diocese argued

for the motion: "What does it say to the nation when the Church preserves the divisions which belong to the secular world?" He quoted from the Bible: "Whoever be first among you, must be slave to all."

Allison Alp of London diocese said: "The challenge of the Gospel is that we live in the world but are not of the world. We must put our money where our mouth is. I would like to see our bishops taking the lead in being servants of servants."

Only one bishop, the Rt Rev Rupert Hoare, suffragan Bishop of Dudley, spoke in favour of the motion, urging the Church not to conform to the ways of the world.

"It is our unity which needs stressing and our common shared understanding of what it is to be ordained to the service of God. The present system of differentials militates against this."

Ordinary clergy described their own struggle to pay bills. A flat pay scale would boost clergy morale, the Synod was told. Bishops could get an allowance for entertaining.

The Rev Hugh Broad of Gloucester diocese said some clerics were forced into moonlighting to meet the bills. "As a father of four, I'm eligible for family credit, and it is galling after 30 years of service in the Church to have to depend on state handouts."

"I could do what many clergy do on the quiet. As a qualified teacher I could give English lessons to GCSE students for £25 an hour."

He said pay differentials should recognise financial need, not reflect a hierarchical structure.

The motion was defeated by 16 votes to four in the House of Bishops, by 99 to 77 in the House of Clergy, and by 105 to 68 in the House of Laity.

Ofsted faces cash cuts

Approved inspection teams fall short of primary schools target

John Carvel

THE Government is to claw back £12.8 million from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) after it failed to attract enough bids from privatised teams of inspectors to complete the planned programme of primary school visits, Labour claimed yesterday.

According to information extracted by Stephen Byers, the Labour education spokesman, the cash limit for the current financial year is being cut by 13 per cent to £85.2 million and the money returned to the Treasury without any prospect of a carry-over.

Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector, reported earlier this month a "worryingly persistent" slowing of chil-

dren's performance in the middle years of primary school, contributing to inadequate progress in maths and English which was reflected in disappointing marks in tests at 11.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said inspection by external teams organised by Ofsted could identify failing schools and provide a stimulus to others to improve their performance.

The Government wanted Ofsted to inspect the 20,000 primary schools in England over a four-year cycle starting in September 1994. Approved inspection teams were invited to tender against each other to keep costs down through competition. Ofsted found, however, that registered inspectors did not muster teams in sufficient numbers to take up the available contracts.

"At the present rate of inspection some primary schools will not have their first inspection until after the millennium", Mr Byers said.

"The Government was faced with the stark choice of clawing money back from Ofsted to provide savings for the Treasury, or using the resources to get back on course with the four-year programme."

This latest revelation shows just how far behind the programme is. Ministers wanted to hide the truth, but now they must accept the real difficulty they have in improving standards in primary schools," he said.

A spokeswoman for Ofsted acknowledged: "The primary and special school market has not gone as quickly as we had hoped." But the budget for the next financial year would be maintained at the substantially higher level of £117.8 million, allowing an increase in the volume of inspections of primary schools.

Men of the cloth can prosper if they reduce lavish lifestyles to suit their worldly income

Angela Johnson

JOHN Andrews has strong views about how much vicars like himself should receive in stipend. "I know people are always on about impoverished clergymen, but I don't think we are badly paid at all."

He insists his £13,500 annual salary is "quite adequate to live on" if you cut

your suit according to the cloth.

"Those who complain that they are impoverished either tend to have a lot of children or choose to send them to expensive public schools. They must recognise that it will cost money."

While some colleagues complain about pay differentials within the Church, which mean that some bishops receive almost twice as

much money, Mr Andrews believes it justifiable.

"They have much larger diocesan responsibilities and have to entertain a lot, so they must either get more money or a big expense account," he suggests.

Mr Andrews, responsible for three churches near Wells, Somerset, lives with his wife and 21-year-old son in a medium size three cottage which is one of the

perks of the job. His daughter, aged 23, is at university.

Reading, lighting and gardening (about £1,000 annually) are tax exempt as are other expenses such as entertaining, the cost of his ministerial clothes, and dry cleaning.

Despite forking out about £3,000 per year for his children's higher education and running two family cars, Mr Andrews, 49, says

he lives a comfortable lifestyle. His journalist wife earns £5,000 a year for running the diocese newspaper and the couple were able to enjoy two foreign holidays last year. Arguing the job was about service and not huge salaries, he added: "When I left journalism in 1990 to follow my vocation, I knew the pay would be much less than anything I could expect to earn in the outside world."

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The Guardian Thursday February 15 1996

Win widens net on sex harassment

Barbie Dutler

A VICTORY by two women who brought a case of environmental sexual harassment against their former employer was hailed as a landmark by the Equal Opportunities Commission last night.

Joanna Traynor and Deborah John were awarded an undisclosed sum and received an apology from the firm, Servo Computers, after claiming that actions and comments at a staff dinner they had attended were obscene and degrading to women.

The EOC, which backed their case, said the outcome would help to clarify the issue of "environmental harassment", covering cases in which the offence takes place where people are gathered, rather than being directed at an individual. It believes women in middle management and sales positions are particular victims.

It hoped the victory would provide a genuine route of redress for staff offended by sexually degrading remarks or behaviour at meetings, public gatherings or parties.

The settlement was reached before Servo Computers and its chief executive, Bill Smith, were to present their case on the third day of an industrial tribunal in Plymouth, Devon. The tribunal had heard that Mrs John, aged 38, and Ms Traynor, 35, both of Plymouth, had been horrified by lewd jokes and sex games at the company's annual awards dinner last July.

It heard that a prize was given to the woman employee with the biggest breasts, a salesman danced with a blow-up sex doll, which Mrs John was forced to sit beside, and a

female colleague was presented with a chocolate penis. Mr Smith was captured on video making a speech littered with sexual references, and the tribunal was told that he presented staff with packets of condoms.

Ms Traynor, a sales manager, had resigned her 25,000-a-year job soon after the dinner. She claimed she was forced out after complaining about the dinner.

Mrs John was made redundant from her 15,000-a-year sales post. She claimed she was picked for redundancy because she had objected to Mr Smith's behaviour.

Mr Smith, aged 48, has agreed to implement an equal opportunities policy and eliminate all sexual harassment from the company.

Ms Traynor, its only black employee, said she was appalled at being nominated for a "black power" award and being labelled a "frightening black lesbian" by Mr Smith. In her case, the firm also admitted a breach of the Race Relations Act.

Nicholas Nichol, representing Servo, said afterwards that many of the allegations had been inaccurate or exaggerated, and that the women now acknowledged there was no "biggest breasts" award.

Carol Foster of the EOC said she believed the case was the first of its kind in Britain. "Environmental harassment is a term that has been devised to describe lewd and offensive jokes, language and behaviour directed at everyone in the room," she said.

"But if an individual finds it distressing, harassing or undermining, they may have a claim and that is why we brought this case. We hope it gives other women the confidence to come forward to complain."



Martin Beale, aged seven, at auditions yesterday for Westminster Abbey choir school, London, accompanied by organist Martin Neary

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Detective 'threatened court witness'

John Mullin

A SENIOR officer in Gloucestershire police perverted the course of justice by persuading a crucial witness to stay away from court, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Detective Inspector Trevor Gladding later lied on oath when questioned about the episode at the trial of two men subsequently convicted for the murder of a London drugs dealer, said Michael Mansfield QC, for the jailed men.

Gary Mills, now 35, and Tony Fools, aged 33, both unemployed, were jailed at Bristol crown court in January

1990, 12 months after the death of Hensley Wilshire at a Gloucester flat where he was stabbed and beaten. The pair said they acted in self-defence.

The appeal court heard evidence yesterday, the third day of the hearing, from Ian Hill, a consultant in forensic medicine, that Mr Wilshire's injuries should not have been fatal. But he was discharged from hospital into police custody before being rushed back with a heart attack several hours later.

Mr Mansfield told the court two crucial witness statements were never disclosed to the defence. They were made by Neville Jukes, who was at

the flat at the time of the attack. His statements, made to Mr Gladding, made it clear Wilshire had been the aggressor. He also indicated the injuries to him were confined to a beating of the legs and stabbings in the buttocks.

Mr Jukes was requested to appear at the committal hearing in June, but never received the intended official letter. He telephoned Mr Gladding just before the committal, during which Mr Gladding said: "It's for them to go to jail or for you to go to jail." This amounted to a threat, said Mr Mansfield.

Mr Gladding went on to

point out there was an arrest warrant for Mr Jukes over non-payment of fines, and he would be arrested if he went to the committal. Mr Gladding said: "You are not required at court. Your evidence is ancillary to our purposes."

Mr Gladding, according to the tape, asked Mr Jukes if he had had official notification to attend. When he said no, he suggested he keep quiet should questions be asked about his non-attendance.

Mr Mansfield said: "That conversation shows an officer quite improperly dissuading somebody who thought he had to go to court as a wit-

ness." He was using the threat of arrest to keep Mr Jukes away.

Under cross-examination at the trial, Mr Gladding denied he had threatened Mr Jukes not to turn up. Mr Mansfield said yesterday: "That is a direct lie." Mr Gladding was also asked if he told Mr Jukes to stay away. He said he had not phoned him, and had no number for him. That was a disingenuous answer, said Mr Mansfield.

"He has tried to pervert the course of justice [by dissuading Jukes from going to court] when it was known the defence wanted him to be called. And he committed perjury." The appeal continues today.

Designer Ossie Clark fights conviction for attacking police at petrol station

THE former top fashion designer Raymond "Ossie" Clark told a court yesterday he thought police were going to kill him during a violent confrontation on a garage forecourt.

He said one "very angry" officer gripped his wrist so hard he thought it would break, stamped on his bare foot, ripped his T-shirt and finally flicked him face down on to the ground.

"I was really afraid they were going to kill me. I was that frightened," he told Southwark crown court, south London.

Clark, aged 52, who in the 1960s and 1970s created stage outfits worn by stars such as Mick Jagger, is trying to overturn a magistrate's court conviction for common assault against one of the officers and a two-month jail sentence.

His 29-year-old lover, Diego Cologarto, who lives with him in Notting Hill, west London, was found guilty of assaulting three police officers and obstructing them. He is also appealing against conviction and a similar sentence.

Albert Cheah, for the Crown, said trouble began when Clark deliberately drove his car into the back of an unmarked police vehicle at a Notting Hill petrol station last July. The pair became "aggressive" and a brawl started. He said Clark, who had refused to take a breath test, struck out at one of the officers while Cologarto punched others.

When told he was being arrested for common assault, the fashion designer replied: "You deserve it, you arsehole."

Clark agreed he had become impatient with the time the people in the car in front were taking. "So I moved my car forward and bumped into the back of theirs, to chivy them along a bit."

The hearing continues.

Jews attracted to left politics

Madeline Bunting Religious Affairs Editor

JEWs are left-leaning but unwilling to increase expenditure on unemployment, according to a survey published today.

The Jewish community is also far more radical on environmental issues than the general population and more liberal on questions of crime and punishment and sexual conduct, according to the most detailed study of the attitudes of the community ever undertaken.

The Institute for Jewish Policy Research found that Jews consistently fall to the left of those in the same social and occupational groups. A high proportion are middle class professionals, yet 41 per cent of these support Labour as against 45 per cent supporting the Conservatives.

Despite a perception that racism has increased, Jews feel strongly rooted in the UK; they do not sense they are

part of a diaspora, and the vast majority, particularly the young, do not believe their future lies in Israel.

A majority does not believe the Bible to be the word of God, and one in three is not a member of a synagogue. There is a strong link between the religiosity of parents and the likelihood of their children continuing in the faith.

These findings, taken in conjunction with an inter-marriage rate among male Jews under 40 of 44 per cent, will be viewed with alarm by Jewish community leaders, faced with the challenge of reversing demographic decline. The community has already shrunk by a quarter since the war, and academics predict that the Jewish communities of the West could disappear in the next century because of the rate of assimilation.

The survey, based on 2,155 self-completed questionnaires, was conducted last year.

Expedition 'bars families'

THE Government was accused yesterday of preventing members of the Derbyshire Family Association from joining the £2 million expedition to examine the wreck of the MV Derbyshire, Britain's biggest maritime loss, writes Keith Harper.

Paul Lambert, the association's chairman, said it had been told it would not be allowed on the survey vessel

being sent to the South China Sea. The Derbyshire sank 15 years ago with 42 crew and two wives.

Mr Lambert said that the decision had been passed on at a meeting with Department of Transport officials. "We were told the team had to be independent but our organisation found the wreck." The department said no decision had been made.

Belfast students follow in parents' footsteps

David Sharrock sees history repeat itself in an election at Queens university

THEIR parents fought each other on nationalist and Unionist tickets nearly 20 years ago, and today the names McAliskey and Taylor will be joined once more in electoral battle.

Deirdre McAliskey, daughter of the former MP Bernadette, and Jonathon Taylor, son of John, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, both want to be president of Queens university students union in Belfast.



Former MP Bernadette McAliskey and her daughter, Deirdre; Unionist deputy leader John Taylor and son Jonathon

ended ceremonies (a practice ended last year) and getting rid of Irish language signs in the union building. "I want to stop the rise in republicanism," says Mr Taylor, aged 23. "I've no problem with political diversity, just with people who think there's a place for the gun in politics." He accepts that Unionists are "definitely a minority" at Queens.

He says his father was furious when he heard he planned to stand. "I am in my final year of economic history and politics, after all. But he seems to have accepted it." He writes for the student newspaper, The Crown, but does not see journalism — or politics — as a career. "I enjoy politics, but it's not a stable job."

Like her mother, Deirdre McAliskey is much less keen on the media, although she gracefully accepts the interest in a battle between the offspring of politicians who have both survived assassina-

tion attempts. Even with the breakdown of the ceasefire, political differences are more easily settled nowadays. She and Jonathon are friends. They were both on a community relations weekend when news of Friday's bombing came through. "Everyone was numb, confused and angry. But next day was the most effective ever. I've had people come up to me saying 'I've never misread a person so much in my life'." As for her politics: "I wouldn't deny for a minute my background is socialism and republicanism, but my politics are my own."

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Rightwinger's reversal propels Italy towards poll

Berlusconi yields over early election

John Hooper in Rome

ITALY was last night heading for a general election at the end of April after the leader of the right, the media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, made the latest in a series of reversals and announced his conversion to the cause of an early poll.

Most of his allies and the leader of the biggest party on the left had already come out in favour of a return to the ballot box, almost three years ahead of schedule.

The man chosen by the president, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, to form a government out of the existing, evenly divided legislature had earlier admitted failure. Antonio Maccanico, a distinguished former civil servant, put the blame on the right, and particularly the leader of Italy's former neo-fascists, Gianfranco Fini.

Mr Maccanico said: "A great and extraordinary opportunity for the future of the country has been lost." He had been asked to put together a broadly-based administration that would have enabled parliament to reform the constitution.

A spring election could help clarify the balance of forces — but would be bad news for Italy's European partners. Rome

currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency. With a caretaker administration in office until late April, Italy would be unable to provide the vigorous leadership the EU badly needs in the approach to next month's launch of the Maastricht review process. There is also the prospect of a lengthy delay before a cabinet is formed following the election.

Mr Maccanico's bitter words sent the stock market tumbling. The Milan bourse's Mibtel index lost 3.62 per cent.

The lira, which had already taken a battering overnight, fell again in New York. By last night, it was trading at 1084 to the Deutschmark, compared with 1069.50 at the close on Tuesday.

The urbane Mr Fini emerged the clear winner from the latest round of fighting and looks increasingly like the true helmsman of Italy's rightwing alliance.

Convinced that his "post-fascists" will do well out of polls, he had been openly in favour of an election from the outset. But Mr Berlusconi — who has endured a string of political setbacks and is now on trial for bribery — was only gradually convinced.

Last night, however, Mr Berlusconi issued a statement from his 18th-century mansion near Milan, saying:

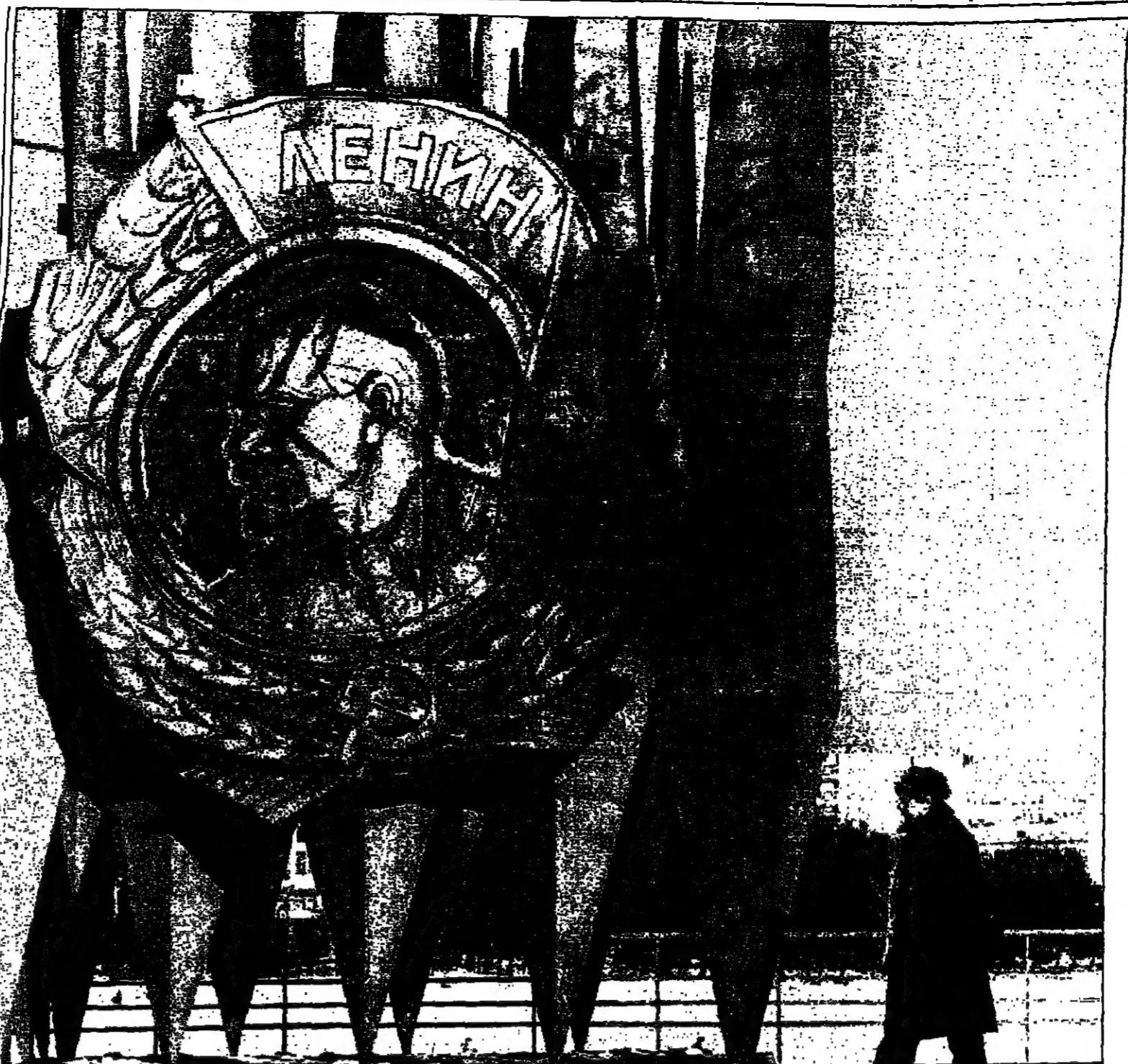
"Only parliamentary elections can remake the torn fabric of our democracy and give the country stable government."

In an interview with the Corriere della Sera newspaper published yesterday, the television mogul acknowledged that his ally had "got it right". Mr Berlusconi's own, half-hearted, attempts to reach a cross-party deal have done nothing to enhance his reputation or electoral prospects.

President Scalfaro had sought a government composed mainly of technocrats with an inoffensive programme that would secure it wide parliamentary support. Mr Maccanico said he was handing back his mandate with "very lively regret".

He had identified a "broad parliamentary majority" in favour of giving Italy a federal administration and a semi-presidential system of government. But he had been unable to use this consensus as the foundation for a government because of "political considerations, obstacles and growing limitations".

These had included attempts to get the proposed government to play a "role that went beyond its constitutional powers" — a clear reference to Mr Fini's demand that it should put constitutional reform into the programme it put before parliament.



Medallion man... A man walks past a giant image of Lenin yesterday in Yekaterinburg, home town of President Boris Yeltsin. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL EVSTAFIEV

Spain shocked at killing

Adela Gooch in Madrid

A FORMER president of Spain's constitutional court and champion of democratic rights, Francisco Tomás y Valiente, was yesterday shot dead by a suspected member of the Basque separatist group ETA in his office at Madrid university.

Tomás y Valiente, aged 63, professor of legal history, was on the telephone when his assassin — identified by onlookers as a well-known member of ETA's Madrid unit — burst in, shot him three times in the head and then fled, threatening students with his gun.

"Everything points to ETA, the type of cartridges and the way it was done," an interior ministry official said.

The attack, which paralysed the official launch of Spain's election campaign

due yesterday, comes a week after a prominent Socialist politician, Fernando Múgica, was shot dead in the Basque city of San Sebastián.

Both men were close to the prime minister, Felipe González.

Many institutions declared official mourning for a man who had worked in harmony with the Socialist Party, yet maintained his independence and was widely respected.

"He was a symbol of our democracy and this attack can only be seen as an assault on our constitution," said Diego López Garrido, an MP for the United Left and a friend.

The prime minister expressed "rage and anger", asking Spaniards "to remain calm so that we can defeat this band of lunatics".

The interior ministry claimed the attack had been carried out by Jon Blazobhar

Arreche; an act of particular bravado because his photo has been on wanted posters which went on display around the country just a few days ago.

The gunman, who carried out the attack without using a mask, escaped in a car later found blown up in northern Madrid.

ETA has habitually carried out high-profile attacks during election campaigns. Although its own electoral support is slowly falling, the separatist group has proved it is still capable of inflicting harm.

In recent months, the group has benefited from low police morale as a result of a judicial inquiry into the "dirty war" fought against alleged ETA members in the mid-1990s, which has led to charges being brought against a former interior minister.

Mixed reception for Urals city's returning son

Residents have few reasons to be cheerful about the prospect of re-electing Yeltsin, David Hearst in Yekaterinburg reports

A MAN climbed on to the granite plinth of an enormous statue of Lenin with a tin of red paint, a monarchist flag, and a placard saying: "Yeltsin is a murderer."

It was a gesture designed to offend everyone, but as this capital city of the Urals awaited the arrival of its most famous son, Boris

Yeltsin, it had the air of a place in confusion.

The roads were being swept clean but most workers had not been paid for two months. Mr Yeltsin was about to announce that he would stand for president again, but no one yesterday was too sure what was so good about his last term.

A scrum of hecklers swirled round the monarchist demonstrator on the statue of Lenin. "I think Yeltsin is grand," a man with a briefcase said, looking for an argument.

"Go on, tell us what Boris has done for us in the last five years," one of two well-dressed women said.

The man had to think. "Five years ago we would not have had foreign journalists asking us what we think of our president," the man said. The women were unimpressed: that had happened under Gorbachev.

"Well, the shops are full of goods," the man went on. "And I'll tell you why," a man interrupted. "It's because there's no money left

to buy the goods. If your dear Yeltsin gave us pensioners some money we'd clear the shelves in one go."

"I'm only thinking about what Yeltsin has done for our children," the man continued. That infuriated the women. "You talk to me about children? Our kindergarten is on its knees because the factory it belonged to has stopped work."

Yekaterinburg is not a communist city, but nor is it willing to see Moscow's line. In elections last December the city voted for a party started by its governor, Eduard Rossell, a man who began as a copy of Mr Yeltsin but developed into a powerful regional leader threatening to set up a separatist Urals republic.

Reform has done no favours to the city's huge military-industrial factories, all now buried under deep piles of snow.

Gennady, who had lost two small garment factories through crippling taxation and government fines, angrily waved at the factory where they made the world's largest missiles as he drove us by. "That," he said, stabbing at the window, "was one of the strongest rocket factories in the world. Look at it

now: it's all but closed and some of the best brains in the country have left."

He went on: "Look, you British are a seafaring nation. Picture yourself on the high seas in a force eight gale. You're on the bridge of a large ship and the captain is drunk. That's what living in this country feels like."

We came to a halt outside the gates of Uralmash, an

country, but the factories are grinding to a halt."

In the office of the president's personal representative in the region, Vitaly Mashkov, far from being hectically busy with arrangements to welcome Mr Yeltsin, was putting the finishing touches to his book.

Mr Mashkov, a nuclear physicist turned coin collector, had a theory. "My book will be about the relationship between money and 2,000 years of Russian history."

The arrival of foreign currency in Russia, he said, had always brought periods of immense change. The Roman denarius, the Arabic dirham and now the US dollar had brought Russia immense prosperity. But after each period of openness there would be the dark ages of war, revolution and catastrophe.

"Russia is like a large prison camp from which the guards have run away and the man at the top is rushing about giving orders to some to dig ditches, to others to go into the kitchen: that's the mess that Yeltsin inherited from the Soviet Union. We are completely demoralised."

And with that he left to greet the president at the airport.

'You're on a ship in a gale and the captain is drunk. That's what living in this country is like'

Germany accepts Croatian call for talks on divided city

Ian Traynor in Bonn

GERMANY bowed yesterday to Croatian demands to reopen talks on the fate of the partitioned city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, returned from Zagreb after failing to persuade Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman to accept the European Union's blueprint for reintegrating the city. The Mostar scheme was devised by the EU administrator, Hans Koechlinck, a German.

"The Croats want more talks and we do not want to

prevent such talks," Mr Kinkel said.

Despite the United States-brokered Croat-Muslim federation in half of Bosnia, Bosnian Croat nationalists sponsored by the Tudjman administration have kept Mostar — the capital of Herzegovina — ethnically split for more than two years.

Claiming Mostar as the capital of their self-proclaimed Croatian statelet, they forcibly expelled all Muslims from the western half of the city in 1993. They then laid siege and shelled the Muslim side for 10 months.

Last week, when Mr Koech-

nick moved to implement his Mostar administration scheme — allotting three districts each to the Muslims and the Croats and a central shared seventh district — the Croatian authorities organised a lynch-mob. They fired shots at and took sledgehammers to his car for more than an hour, and broke off links with the EU team.


As Zagreb's key European ally and the sponsor of international recognition of Croatian independence in 1992, Germany has sought to bring its influence to bear over the Mostar stalemate, seen as a serious threat to the success

of the Nato peace mission in Bosnia.

But Mr Tudjman rebuffed the German overtures, calculating that Western penalties for Zagreb's recalcitrance would be purely verbal.

The US announced yesterday that it was withdrawing the first of its forces from the Nato-led peace implementation force in Bosnia.

A statement from the US Army base in Tuzar, Hungary said the 3,325 Airborne Expeditionary Combat Team had completed its mission and would return to base in W-cenza, Italy in the next few days. — Reuter.



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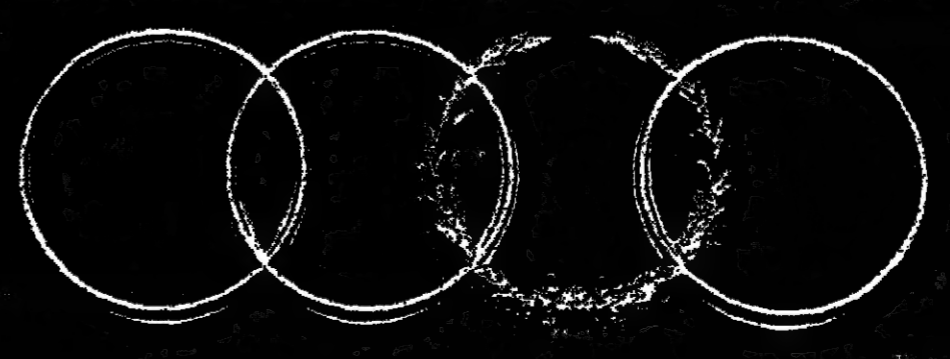
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New Hampshire scramble to pick up Gramm vote

Alexander boosts rightwing image

Martin Walker in Milford, New Hampshire

LAMAR ALEXANDER, whose campaign in the Republican presidential race has finally gathered speed after months in the doldrums following this week's Iowa caucus vote, unveiled his own latest conservative credential to the voters of New Hampshire yesterday.

The former governor of Tennessee laughed off Senator Robert Dole's latest sneer that he is a "liberal" by securing the backing of one of America's most prominent conservative intellectuals, William Bennett, who announced he was to become Mr Alexander's campaign chairman.

The move came as the rightwing Texas senator Phil Gramm withdrew from the Republican race. Mr Gramm's decision has not left the conservative field open to Pat Buchanan: as the party's remaining contestants gather in New Hampshire for next week's primary, they are all competing for the conservative mantle and for Mr Gramm's remaining supporters.

"Phil Gramm has always been a colleague of mine in the senate and we are both conservatives, so I guess I have the best claim on his endorsement," Mr Dole said yesterday, brushing aside months of vituperation between him and Mr Gramm, whose presidential ambition was squashed in Iowa.

Mr Bennett, Ronald Reagan's former press secretary, is best known as the best-selling author of *The Book of Virtues*, a tract of traditional tales and homilies in which good always triumphs.

"Lamar Alexander is going to be the next conservative president of the United States," he said. "Lamar Alexander is a genuinely good man, an honest man, and a conservative in the best sense of the word."

The 12,000 residents of the small textile town of Milford have not seen anything quite like it, at least not since the last primary four years ago.

Thirty television-satellite vans and two competing motorcades formed an impendable traffic jam at the town's cramped crossroads yesterday.



'Lamar Alexander is going to be the next conservative president of these United States'

Stephen Forbes, the multi-millionaire publisher, was trying to reach the local Rotary Club to tell businessmen about his plans for a flat tax. Mr Alexander, meanwhile, was trumping the town centre, with 34 separate camera teams trying to squeeze into every shop behind him.

"Hi, you remember me from October, when I was walking my way across this whole state to tell you all I

was running for president," Mr Alexander announced at Heyman's delicatessen.

"Well, now I am counting on New Hampshire to make me not just the front-runner but the people's choice as the only man who can turn Bill Clinton out of the White House this November."

Outside, he told journalists: "Bob Dole is a great Republican but, at 73, he is not the man to lead America into the next millennium. Pat Buchanan is a fine commentator, but he is too extreme for the Republican Party and can never be elected president. I am now the only realistic Republican candidate."

Dressed in his trademark red and black check, Mr Alexander tried to brush aside the clamour of inquiries about his personal finances. A series of highly lucrative deals has become the target for his rivals, with Mr Forbes noting "at least I got my money honestly."

Mr Alexander's greatest embarrassment is his investment of \$1 in a local Tennessee newspaper that later netted him more than \$600,000 (\$380,000 profit).

"This is going to knock Whitewater right off the table," a senior White House aide said yesterday, before being hauled into the Oval Office to be told by President Clinton that he wants no such comments and no hint of a dirty campaign.

"I am not concerned about Whitewater, I am not concerned about Hillarygate," Mr Alexander said yesterday. "I'm concerned about competing visions for America."



Flying visit... A trainer plane crashes into a barn in Vancouver province. The pilot ditched the aircraft short of the runway, suffering scratches. PHOTOGRAPH: MARK VAN MANEN

Abacha looks to hollow praise of chiefs for legitimacy

The military and traditional rulers are seen as partners in crime by many Nigerians, writes Chris McGreal in Kaduna

THE Ooni of Ife would have done well to find out what Louis Farrakhan was going to say before he added him to Nigeria's jungle of emirs, gboms and omas.

The principal traditional leader of the Yoruba people conferred a chieftaincy on Mr Farrakhan only to hear the visiting black American firebrand praise military rule as exactly what Nigeria needs.

The regime's opponents denounced "Chief" Farrakhan as a patronising rabble-rouser who came to Nigeria to line his own pocket. Attacks on the Ooni of Ife for honouring him were only marginally less vigorous because many Nigerians are no longer surprised. They have come to

view the traditional rulers and the military as partners in crime.

When General Sani Abacha wants a public endorsement of his policies he turns to the men who claim to speak for Nigeria's disparate ethnic communities. Traditional rulers endorsed his coup in 1993, and his more recent plans to remain in power another three years.

The Sultan of Sokoto, a prominent Islamic leader, stood firmly with the government when Nigeria was berated for the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, despite his own differences with Gen Abacha.

"It is only when we unite and support the government that we would be able to survive the odds against

us. We must remember: united we stand, divided we fall" - which is in our holy scriptures," he said.

Shortly afterwards, Gen Abacha made a great show of setting up a committee of eminent Nigerians to "advise" the government. Half the seats went to traditional rulers. The Sultan of Sokoto was made chairman and heralded as an authentic voice of northern Nigerians even though riots and killings greeted his appointment by the military under the last dictatorship.

Gen Abacha is further refining a practice begun by British colonisers who worked through the traditional hierarchy as a means of co-operation, control and intimidation. But many of those carrying ancient

titles today no longer command the respect let alone the obedience of the communities they claim to represent, even though it suits both the government and traditional rulers to pretend otherwise.

Among the few who have dared to challenge this relationship directly is a former state governor and retired colonel, Yohanna Madaki. He lost.

Eight years ago, Col Madaki dismissed the Emir of Murf on the grounds that he lacked support, beside arbitrarily seizing land and flouting the law. But his own military government barely hesitated in the face of demands from traditional rulers that the colonel had to go.

Col Madaki says that since then the military has come to rely even more heavily on titled men.

The colonel said: "When the military come to power

the political avenues have been closed off and so they go to traditional rulers for legitimacy. Because the government lacks credibility they like to project this false praise by getting these traditional rulers to endorse what the military does. The deceit is that they are not speaking for their communities."

"Each military government is worse than its predecessor so the present administration relies more on these traditional rulers than any before."

The collaboration is not universal. There are dissenting voices among traditional leaders but they are a stifled minority.

While the regime looks to religions dictators to stifle dissent, the emirs, sultans and a host of lesser titles are keen to ensure there is no challenge to their power and finances.

Amid the genuinely tradi-

tional titles, artificial creations flourish. They are particularly popular with the military, sometimes with an eye on the day the army finally goes.

Among the most derided appointments has been the elevation of one of Gen Abacha's closest aides, Lieutenant-General Jeremiah Useni. He was recently proclaimed the Sardauna of Plateau state. Plateau has never had a Sardauna before. Besides which, it is a Muslim title. Gen Useni is a Christian.

Amnesty International yesterday called on Nigeria to abolish a special tribunal scheduled to try 19 Ogonis facing the death sentence, or to bring it into line with international standards. The tribunal, which passed death sentences on Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogonis last year, was condemned as a kangaroo court.

Progress slows in Iraqi talks with UN

News in brief

IRAQ and the United Nations have made only limited progress in talks on allowing oil sales to buy food and medicine despite rising expectations in Baghdad that a deal is imminent. It emerged yesterday.

Hans Corell, the UN official in charge, gave a cautious assessment when he briefed Security Council ambassadors, while diplomats said they believed Saddam Hussein had not yet made a strategic decision on whether to go ahead. A diplomat said: "They've certainly been talking pretty seriously for a week now. But the Iraqis are talking the talk up, and in the end they might turn round and blame the UN for failure."

The two sides have been discussing implementation of UN resolution 986, which would allow Baghdad to sell \$2 billion (£1.3 billion) worth of oil over six months, on a renewable basis, to buy civilian supplies for its shattered economy.

President Saddam has previously rejected the offer - it requires a UN role in financial control and food distribution - as an infringement of his sovereignty. The official media have stirred hopes that a partial lifting of sanctions is imminent, with reports on preparations for a resumption of oil exports and the opening of warehouses to receive medical supplies.

Western diplomats say this is premature. "Saddam is under a lot of pressure and he has to try to show that he has control of the negotiations," one said. "It's very much a propaganda effort." - *Jan Black, Diplomatic Editor, London.*

North Korea gunman in siege

A NORTH Korean asylum-seeker shot his way into Russia's vast diplomatic compound in Pyongyang yesterday, killing several guards in an episode indicative of explosive tensions beneath the surface of the world's most rigidly controlled state.

The intruder was last night holed up inside the Russian trade mission and threatened to shoot himself with a pistol unless Moscow granted permanent refuge. Tass reported. All those killed or hurt in a shootout were said to be North Koreans.

The incident is another blow for a leadership beset by economic collapse, growing famine and claims that the ex-wife of "Dear Leader" Kim Jong-il has defected. Sung Hae-rim, a former film star, was reported to have gone into hiding in western Europe.

Seeking to maximise Pyongyang's discomfort, South Korea paraded three other North Korean defectors at a news conference in Seoul yesterday. - *Andrew Higgins, Hong Kong.*

MEPs vote for Europe's soul

THE European Parliament voted yesterday to impose advertising restrictions on television channels and quotas on programmes produced outside the European Union. Commercial television companies warned the move would damage the industry.

Their complaints followed the vote, aimed largely at restricting American imports, to impose a quota ensuring that 51 per cent of programmes originate in Europe. The quota vote is intended to protect European culture against US imports and to boost local production. A series of MEPs pleaded for the parliament to protect Europeans from "American super-market culture". Jack Lang, the former French culture minister, called for a symbolic, moral and spiritual crusade to protect Europe's soul.

But British Tory MEPs said the plans showed a lack of confidence in European culture and that viewers should be trusted to make their own choices. - *Stephen Bates, Strasbourg.*

Militants threaten oil workers

MUSLIM militants have told Algeria's oil and gas workers to stop work or they will send hit squads to murder them, singling out the country's main export-earner for the first time.

The threat was carried yesterday in the London-based Arab-language newspaper al Hayat which quoted a statement from Abu Abderrahmane Amine, leader of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) which has fought the army-backed government since 1992.

"Who stops work will serve his own interest and who does not stop work insists on war and harms himself, and will be killed," said the statement, which could not be independently verified.

The newspaper said: "The GIA reckons Algerian oil companies are allies of the infidels." The warning it carried was aimed at Algeria's state-owned oil and gas company, Sonatrach, and the national petroleum firm, Naphthalas, as well as "all those who contract with them individually or as firms". - *Reuter, Paris.*



Child protection act... Pupils at a Jerusalem high school wear gas masks in class as part of a nationwide chemical warfare drill yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN HENDLER

Zimbabwe poll boycott urged

MARGARET DONGO, the fiery independent Zimbabwean politician, yesterday called for a boycott of the presidential elections on March 16 and 17, dismissing them as a sham. She urged the opposition candidates, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, to withdraw on the grounds that they are only giving credibility to President Robert Mugabe.

"The presidential elections are only for the consumption of the international and donor community, and not for oppressed Zimbabweans," she said. "The elections are meant to hoodwink the international community to believe there is democracy in Zimbabwe."

She called for the country's constitution to be rewritten in order to give opposition parties a fair chance.

Mrs Dongo was elected last year as the independent MP for Harare South, one of three non-Zanu-PF members of the 160-strong parliament. She is not a candidate in the presidential race because, at 36, she does not meet the age requirement of 40.

"A massive abstention will record a silent vote and it will be a negation of the chicanery Zanu-PF stands for," Mrs Dongo said. "Mr Mugabe's embarrassment would be more pronounced if he goes to the polls on his own, for then there will be no legitimacy to his claim to the presidency." - *Andrew Meldrum, Harare.*

Conviction upheld

A COURT in Brussels yesterday upheld the conviction of a woman who was executed for collaboration with the Nazis at the end of the second world war.

The military court at the Palace of Justice ruled that Irma Leplesse, a Flemish farmer's wife who betrayed resistance fighters to the Germans in 1944, was guilty but that she should have been sentenced to life imprisonment rather than death.

The demand for the case to be reopened had been led by the extreme nationalist Flemish Vlaams Blok party which is campaigning for an amnesty for those who collaborated during the war. More than 300 Belgians were executed for helping the Nazis after the war and many more lost civic rights, being disqualified from voting or applying for passports. - *Stephen Bates.*

Mystery hiring

THE American political magazine, the Nation, claims it has hired the anonymous author of *Primary Colours*, a best-selling novel about the 1992 Clinton presidential campaign, to write "fictional" reports on the 1996 election campaign.

The refusal of the Nation's editor, Katrina vanden Heuvel, to identify her new writer has deepened the mystery which has obsessed the political and publishing worlds.

The publisher, Random House, has cast doubt on the left-leaning New York-based magazine's claim that its Anonymous is the same person who wrote the bestseller. "Any piece of work written by the Anonymous who wrote *Primary Colours* will be identified as such by Random House and Kathy Robbins [agent]. Neither Random House nor Kathy Robbins is confirming this is our author," Random House said. - *Jan Katz, New York.*

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Finding the real poor

Overseas aid must be for people not countries

THE AID DEBATE which Lady Chalker rekindled yesterday is about principle and methods... but it is also about money. That is why a speech which sets out new aims for British aid policy, and offers many points on which the aid agencies would largely agree, still has to be held up to a searching light.

added the revealing phrase "in absolute terms." British aid, as the OECD's development assistance committee noted on Monday, ranks joint 14th with Finland as a percentage of GNP. According to the same unit of measurement our aid will have fallen to 0.26 per cent by 1997-98.

The riddle of unemployment

We won't know if inflation is dead unless we test the water

IT'S the economy, Cupid. The Government received a welcome Valentine Day's message yesterday in the form of an unexpectedly sharp fall in unemployment of 29,300 to 2.3 million.

factors help to explain this. First, the UK has received the lion's share of inward investment into Europe. Second, the UK's manufacturing base has benefited from the involuntary devaluation of 1992.

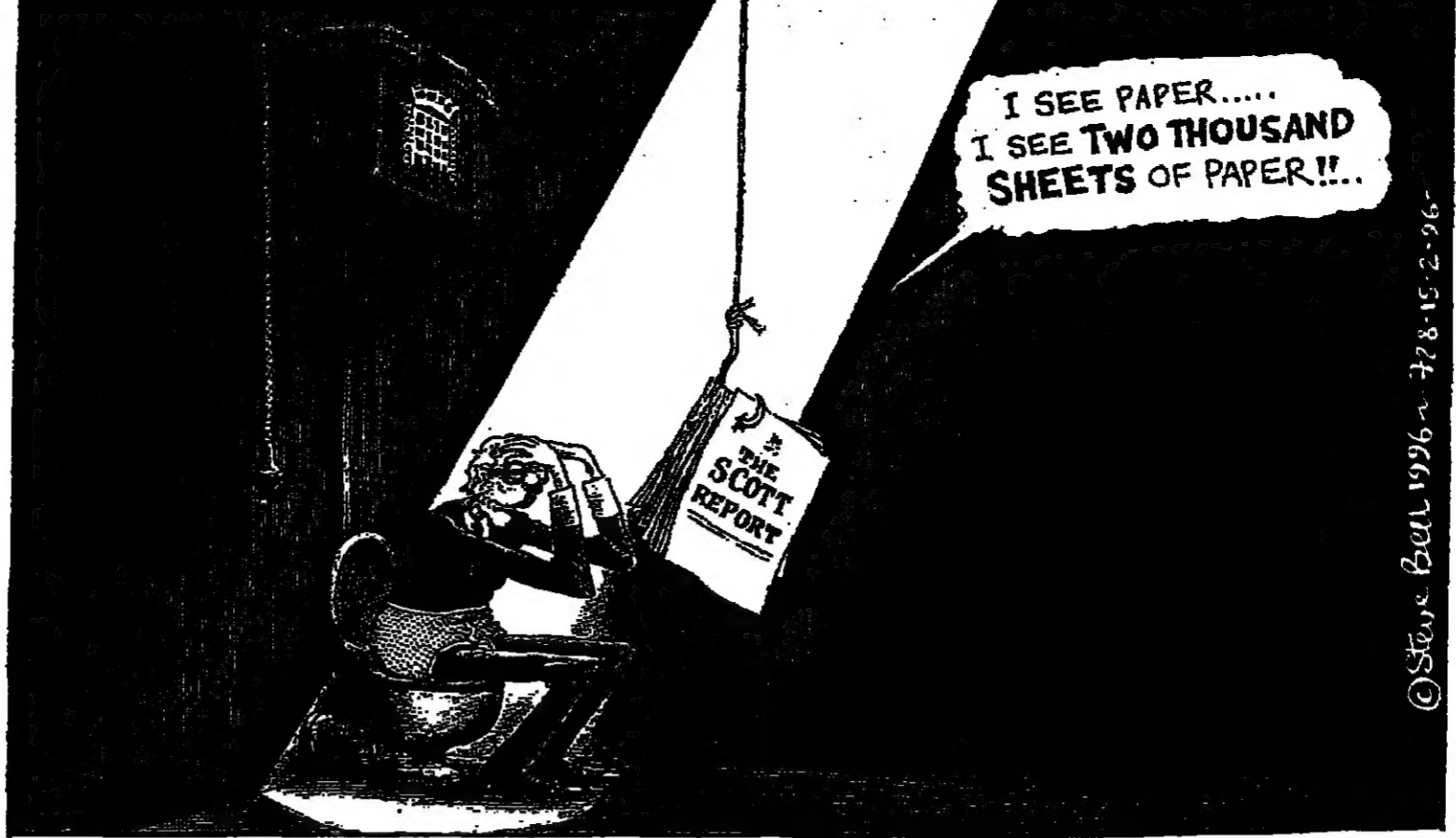
Homework in the community

Study centres are a good idea with or without lottery money

IN a country where education expectations have consistently been too low, ambition is no sin. In Browning's words, a man's reach should exceed his grasp.

where there are high proportions of ethnic minorities, have supplementary education schemes. The Trust's aim is to provide a more systematic coverage beginning in the four national capitals.

MYSTIC MUG'S PREDICTIONS FOR 3-30pm TODAY



Letters to the Editor

The high price of a TV licence

MICHAEL HOWARD might finally have recognised the injustice of sending fine defaulters to prison but the current system of flat-rate fines still penalises the poor.

CONGRATULATIONS on the successful Guardian campaign to end the imprisonment of thousands of fine defaulters, mostly women with children, trapped by poverty.

On the struggles of a novelist

ODDLY enough, the publicity surrounding the Joan Collins case could do writers a favour (Joan bites back with tale of the amoeba, February 14).

Mind games

CHESS is a game played with just 32 pieces moved according to a small set of rules over just 64 locations by just two players strictly rotating turns.

Chess is a game played with just 32 pieces moved according to a small set of rules over just 64 locations by just two players strictly rotating turns.

A foreign policy

IN 1958-59, I was serving in the Royal Navy when Greek Cypriots were fighting for independence. I was shot at and BOKA terrorists tried to blow up my ship.

White wash

YOU report that Nigerians not convicted of any crime are kept in such inhuman conditions that even the internal-affairs minister admits something is wrong.

We will fork out for school dinners

WRITE further to your article (City 'playing Mr Bumble with school dinners', February 14) which gave credence to the Liberal Democrats' fallacious claim that Liverpool City Council was proposing a 10 per cent reduction in its school-meal provision.

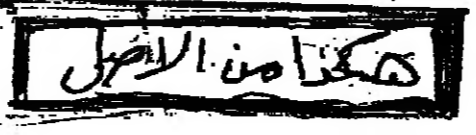
incident only underlines the short distance between the pavement and the gutter. (Cllr) Barry Rimmer, Leader of Liverpool Council Municipal Buildings, Liverpool L69 2DH.

Life as art

YOU published a letter from Ibrahim Thompson (February 8) claiming that "the Tate built its empire from profits made from slave sugar plantations".

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: I rose, as usual, at 6.40am, and checked the temperature outside - still -2C. Breakfast at my desk, reading and watching out for the lightning of the sky.



Diary
Matthew Norman

AS the publication date draws close, excitement about The Blair Revolution, my friend Mandy Mandelson's rigidly objective account of recent Labour history, becomes intolerable. Although Mandy co-wrote the book with Roger Liddle, it seems he had other little helpers besides. One of these is an office boy called Derek Draper, an obliging, monkish lad who loves to ring me for a natter. Derek must have been particularly helpful, for he is receiving 3.3 per cent royalties (a third of Mandy's own percentage). Better still, Derek has even set up his own company, "3C Books". This will sell copies ordered in advance at £8.99, keeping a massive commission of 35 per cent, and will also organise the Mandy Mandelson "Blair Revolution" national lecture tour. Gosh. Anyone still unsure about committing themselves to buying the masterpiece in advance will find all the best bits serialised in the Guardian shortly.

MEANWHILE, what of Philip Gould, Labour's self-effacing communications man? A much respected writer himself, although principally of memos, Philip has a new weeze. He is now treating his "focus groups" — gatherings of people to discuss advertising brand names (or, in this case, political principles) to serve a thing he calls "winning words". The group is shown a single word ("squeeze", "thatcher", "internet", or whatever) and their snap responses help decide whether it is winning or losing. (I invite anyone who has been to a meeting to call me at once.) Should this idea ever be deemed inappropriate for a major political party, Channel 4 are very keen to turn it into a children's TV show.

THE Financial Times has announced the winner of free economy flights to the US in its Mastering Management section. He is Mr N Leeson of Stone, Staffs. The paper adds the usual rider that it will not be liable "for any cause beyond its reasonable control that prevents the winner taking up the prize".

WE all have different notions of what an intimate Valentine might be. To some, it is a pretty card, and to others a self-composed poem. But my sane and rational friend Paul Johnson's notion of an intimate Valentine is to write an article in the Daily Telegraph explaining how his marriage is dominated by bickering and accusations of divorce. (There is the glimmer of a paradox here — Paul is a ferocious opponent of newspapers delving into people's private lives — but it is so extraordinarily rare for him to contradict himself that we will let it pass.) Paul dwells almost exclusively on those shared moments of bliss with Marigold, his saintly wife. They might, he says, have divorced a dozen times, "but the causes and circumstances and details of our disputes have long since faded from memory. Darling, why did we almost get divorced in 1972? I can't remember, but it wasn't 1972, it was 1974. ... He is the Maurice Chevalier of political punditry. So touched was I by his tendresse ("Marriage is a profession" moved me especially), I wrote him a Valentine from the Diary and its loyal army of readers. "Your face isn't red, your blood isn't blue, your name is Paul Johnson, and we all love you." Ahh.

WARM congratulations to Joan Collins for winning £2 million — she was owed for a manuscript by the publisher Random House. "I am absolutely delighted," she said. "Justice has been done." Indeed it has. In garrets all over the world today, novelists will salute her for winning for them a victory for the principle of literary freedom unknown since the Lady Chatterley trial. In appreciation of this, I am proud to announce that A Feeling House (which Random House is the first ever Diary Non Book of the Month.



Waiting for the last reel on Bosnia

Commentary Hugo Young

WHILE Europe slept, America acted. This was not supposed to be the shape of our times, and Richard Holbrooke, the US Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, has repeatedly declared that he didn't mean what he appeared to have said. But the sentiment has the same resonance of uncomfortable truth Dean Acheson achieved 33 years ago when he said that Britain had lost an empire but not found a role. It is a saying, even if not precisely said, that will not go away.

In a week, Holbrooke will have left a job in which he became famous as the peace-broker of Bosnia. For a man steeped in history and geopolitics, who combines in that wonderful American way the faculties of both actor and observer, it is a paradoxical moment to be quitting the scene. Seldom has so short a term of office witnessed the beginning

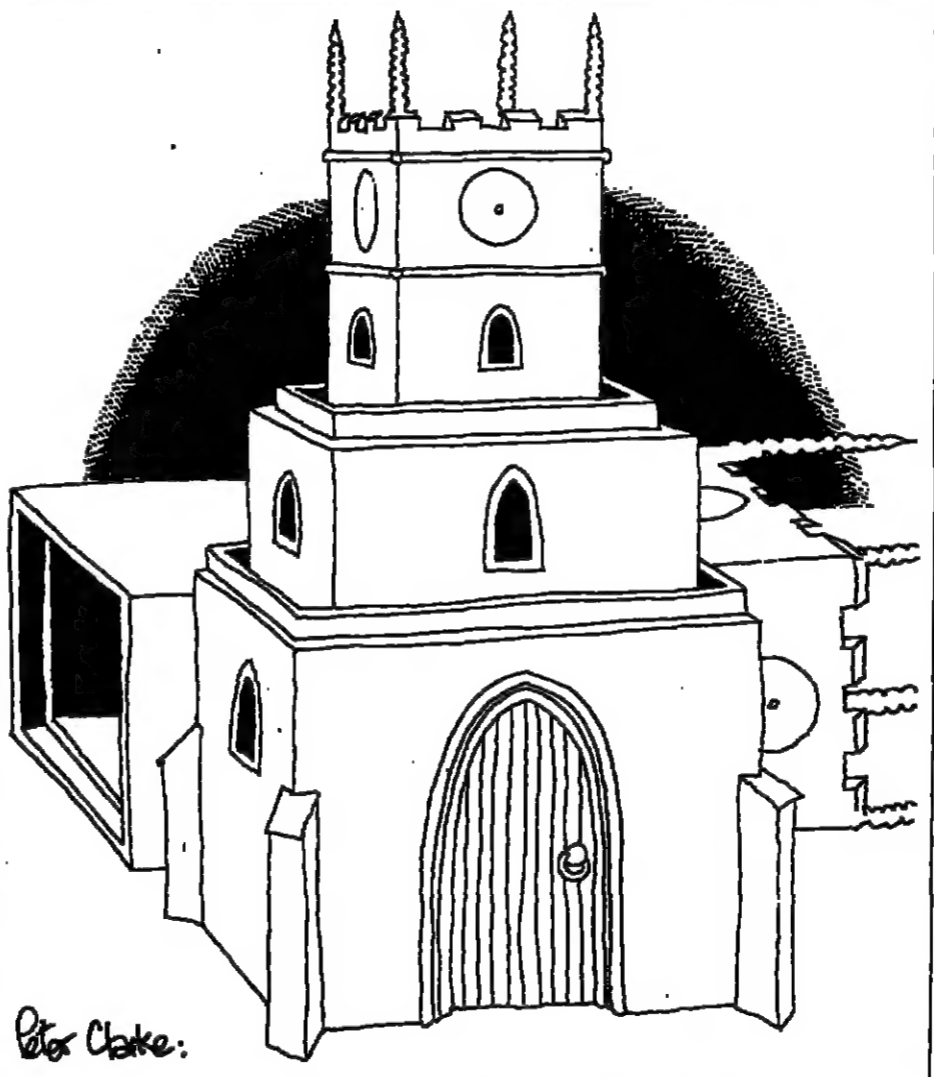
of so much that will fall to the successor, not the first actor to carry forward all of it, though, making the point about Europe that he insists he wasn't really making. The consolation is that he was present at the creation. Crammed into the last part of 1995 were events as distant as they could be from the end of history. While the movie that began in 1945 ended around 1990, the new movie, as Holbrooke tends to think of it, is unspooling without anybody having much idea what the next episodes will be. In the space of just a few weeks, Russia agreed to send troops to operate under American command, thousands of German soldiers began to operate for the first time outside Germany, France re-joined Nato proper, Nato mobilised for by far its most serious operation, and its enlargement eastwards became a more imminent reality.

All these could be positive developments. But they are happening against a background where history, so far from being ended, is in perilous danger of being unmade, with imponderable consequences for the world. Across the entire south-east quadrant of Europe, where frontiers drawn 50 or more years ago have been kept in place essentially by the Cold War, their mis-match with the where-

Church in a state

In a less and less formally Christian nation, it is a matter of time before disestablishment, argues Madeleine Bunting

THE Church of England is balanced uncomfortably between its predominantly Conservative-voting congregations and its left-leaning clergy. Despite the blime of publicity given to the survey of General Synod members yesterday, this is not new; the cry of a Church stuffed with pinks reverberated through the eighties. The survey simply shows that the divide between priest and faithful continues to widen. But this small shift is explosive stuff because it conceals the on-going, long-term radical transformation of the Church of England.



By Clarke

in the teeth of ridicule — and with that comes a greater degree of commitment. The Gospel's radical, revolutionary message is being unsharpened, though not passed, yesterday's call for all clergy to be paid the same aroused passion about the Church's role as a model to society.

The man who would topple Boris

David Hearst on the communist tipped as Russia's next president

GENNADY Zyuganov will today be nominated as the presidential candidate of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation. For the delegates of 500,000 party members convening in Moscow, it will be more anointment than vote. As matters stand now, Zyuganov is the man most likely to become Russia's next president when the country votes in June.

This objective currently disillusions the behaviour of the communist movement as a whole. What happens if a communist victory is secured may be a different matter entirely.

every indication of what the public wanted. For this act of political courage, however, he has been rewarded with a ten point rise in his personal ratings and a big party swing in the polls. Pending some disaster, the American public is now behind the military's mission. This has to be strictly limited. The "Vietnam" syndrome continues to touch the psyche, making Americans terrified of mission creep, which led variously to the Vietnam catastrophe and the more recent humiliations in Somalia. That's why Nato won't be doing on a possibly futile search for Radovan Karadzic, and why 12 months is the limit. All the same, the US commitment is a momentous statement of purpose.

Europe, in a sense, has no choice. Turbulence threatens to explode all around

quite asleep, but has been unable to rouse itself to effective action even in a much lesser theatre than Bosnia, namely the Aegean. Holbrooke's phrase referred to the absurd gunboat crisis over Imia, the uninhabited rocks close to Turkey where Greece, abetted by a group of Turkish journalists, very nearly managed to start a war. This Greco-Turkish wrestling might have been a more smoothly handled if the European Union had shown itself in the smallest degree capable of contributing to a solution to the problem of Cyprus, one of its new candidates for membership.

through Mr Holbrooke, committed diplomatic resources to seize the moment. But the EU has been foreclosed from playing a proper part by its inability to agree about the simplest details. Italy, currently holding the presidency, is supposed to take the lead. But is the Italian foreign minister acting for Europe or, less promisingly, for Italy? Can the EU involvement be conducted with clear authority, or will the interested nations, Britain among them, be whispering behind their hands to Washington that they disagree with Europe or that EU move?

religions. Today's survey of the Jewish community sharply illustrates some demographic facts which could almost spell the end of Judaism in a couple of generations.

Halgood, the former Archbishop of York, warned the Church against the "holy huddle" in his valedictory address to General Synod last summer as a sterile dead-end.

Pictures that are still worth a thousand words



Natasha Walter

THE PINTERS are pouring in line and doing the right thing: staring at the brilliant green and blue eyes of the dead man's art. Why do they come? What are they looking for?

perfectly on the cusp of pre-modern and modern art we can be reassured by him. He seems to have roots, into a time when painting and re-painting the perfect, ample apple next to the perfect vase was a fit exercise for art; and he seems to have branches, into a time when planes and perspectives began to dissociate themselves deliberately from the painted scene. He tells us where we come from, and he tells us there is one story of art, a story that leads directly from Rembrandt to Monet to Cézanne to Picasso to Damien Hirst. We love to believe that art is like this, a kind of relay race that breathes the finishing tape in our lifetime. No matter that a trip round the rest of the Tate will reveal the broken-down glitter of impressionistic Turners or the strict painterliness of Stanley Spencer and Lucien Freud. Cézanne gives us a story we can understand.

RISING DAMP?

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

Cosmetics stirred up as Unilever agrees deal

Roger Cowe

TURMOIL in the cosmetics industry, which has seen several leading houses change hands in the past few years, continued yesterday with an agreed bid by Unilever to buy Helene Curtis Industries for \$770 million (\$500 million).

The owner of brands such as the Salon Selectives hair-care products will add to Unilever's growing business in perfumes and other personal products, which has been built up through acquisitions of Chesebrough-Pond's, Elizabeth Arden, Fabergé and Calvin Klein.

The industry has seen unprecedented upheavals in recent years as many family houses have sold out to multinationals, and other privately-owned businesses have changed ownership.

Only last week the owner of America's Revlon, entrepreneur Ron Perleman, announced plans to sell about 15 per cent of the company's shares in the market after several previous attempts at partial flotation had failed.

Revlon was acquired by Mr Perleman six years ago.

He has been pipped by Estée Lauder, the family-owned business which pulled off a successful share offering of 12 per cent of the company last November.

The French company L'Oréal, part-owned by Nestlé, Unilever's rival, also plunged into the takeover scene recently. At the end of last month L'Oréal beat the German company Jön A Benckiser with a bid of over \$600 million for Maybelline, the Memphis owner of Expert Eyes and other beauty products.

L'Oréal itself has long been surrounded by speculation about its relationship with Nestlé. The Swiss company has been expected eventually to move in and take full control of its French associate.

Helene Curtis represents just the latest in a steady

stream of acquisitions by Unilever as the group has sought to build its US presence and move the weight of its activities towards products which earn higher profit margins.

Last month Unilever agreed to pay \$370 million for Diversy, the specialty chemicals unit of Molson of Canada. Last week, the group announced it was reorganising its European foods business to cut costs and boost profit margins, at a cost of \$225 million. Most of the costs will hit the European foods business.

Unilever, which is also strong in detergents and has a substantial business elsewhere around the world as well as Europe and the US, has about 15 per cent of its global sales in toiletries. That amounts to about \$4.8 billion.

The attraction is in the greater defensiveness of high-profile personal products, compared with run-of-the-mill detergents and packaged groceries. Unilever companies as large as Unilever have come under intense pressure from retailers, especially in Europe, who have forced down profit margins on such routine products.

Grocery manufacturers have found it difficult to compete with retailers' own brands without cutting prices and boosting marketing budgets. Perfumes and other leading cosmetic brands have been less susceptible to such pressure, as well as selling at higher profit margins to start with.

Helene Curtis will add sales of \$1.3 billion, which last year produced a profit of \$38 million. It employs more than 3,000 people, two-thirds of whom work in the US. It also has operations in Japan, Canada and Australia, as well as the UK.

Helene Curtis has strong brands in the North American hair-care and deodorant markets and this acquisition will improve our position, which has been under-represented in comparison with our international presence, Robert Phillips, a Unilever director said.



Elizabeth Forsyth yesterday. She denies handling stolen money. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

Stolen cash 'laundered and used to boost Asil Nadir's prize bulls'

Sam King

MONEY allegedly stolen by Polly Peck tycoon Asil Nadir, and laundered by his personal assistant, Elisabeth Forsyth, was used to buy bull semen, an Old Bailey court was told yesterday.

The woman was used to "improve the testosterone levels" of Mr Nadir's prize bulls at Baggrave Farm, his Leicester-shire estate, the court was told.

The tale came as Geoffrey Robertson, Mrs Forsyth's QC, made his opening address to jurors, in which he said it was a rich irony that Mrs Forsyth, "of all the people who made their excuses and left when Polly Peck collapsed," should be on trial.

Mrs Forsyth denies two charges of handling money stolen by Mr Nadir between October 16 and 20, 1995.

Mr Robertson said that at the time of the alleged offences, Mr Nadir was considered a god by Polly Peck's shareholders, having built the business into one of Britain's biggest companies.

He said Mr Nadir, who fled to Cyprus in 1983, had won a Queen's Award for Industry, and was knighted by the Conservative Party, to which he donated large sums through Polly Peck subsidiary Unipac, and had regularly attended hunches at 10 Downing Street hosted by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

He said: "You can't begin to consider the charge against Mrs Forsyth unless you conclude that Mr Nadir is guilty. I don't represent Asil Nadir, and no one is here to put forward his defence, which is profoundly unsatisfactory."

Earlier, David Calvert-Smith, the Crown QC, told jurors that Mrs Forsyth had carried thousands of pounds in cash as she laundered some \$400,000 stolen by Mr Nadir.

He said the money had been transferred from a Polly Peck account in London to an account in Geneva, where it was collected in cash by Mrs Forsyth.

Most of the money was later paid to A.J. Bekhor, a stockbroker owned by Mr Nadir, while the remainder was paid into the Baggrave Farm account.

The case continues today.

Notebook

Green light for Clarke's agenda



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE bell marking the end of round two in the tussle between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England has been sounded with the publication of the Bank's Inflation Report.

So far it has been a clean sweep for Mr Clarke, who has been proved right in rejecting the bank's advice to raise rates last summer, and right again in cutting in December and January despite the Old Lady's opposition. We all now know that the economy grew at a pretty sticky rate in the latter half of 1995. The Chancellor has either been blessed with a better feel for the pulse of the economy, or with a great deal of luck.

The Bank now says the Government's target of 2.5 per cent for underlying inflation - which strips out mortgage interest payments - is more likely than not to be hit in two years' time, and that the outlook for prices is good.

Indeed, in the short term, the chances are that inflation will be even more subdued than the bank's central forecast as exporters suffer from continental gloom and manufacturers run down stocks.

In a touching display of humility, the Bank acknowledges that with the benefit of hindsight it was wrong to stand against the easing of base rates from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent last month. Given the Bank's change of tack, it is tempting to be sceptical about its longer-term warnings on prices. Tempting, but misplaced. For all its faults, the Inflation Report is a thoroughgoing attempt to identify the risks of inflation over the next two years.

The Bank's view is that if, as the Treasury expects, consumption picks up strongly this year and earnings begin to rise, more fuel will be added to the inflationary fire than the currently benign inflationary environment would suggest. Moreover, once the de-stocking phase ends in manufacturing, the industrial side of the economy could begin to motor again, putting upward price pressure on the high street.

The problem for the Bank is that its master in Whitehall is thinking on a shorter, political time horizon. There is little economic argument in the Bank's latest report against further rate cuts in the immediate future - and with the election campaign already effectively underway, Mr Clarke looks certain to take the bait.

ital mobile network, which expects to release its pathfinder prospectus by early March. Cellnet, owned by BT and Securicor, and Vodafone - which already has a public quote - are the two pioneers in the UK industry with large market shares (some 2.3 million subscribers in each case) but have serious difficulties.

Over a period of time they need to shift suspicious consumers from analogue to digital, eliminate the middle person in the shape of service providers such as Peoples Phone, and overcome some of the consumer negatives.

Against this background Orange, which is currently putting on new subscribers faster than any of its main competitors, has a considerable advantage. With its current owners, British Aerospace and Hutchinson Whampoa, dilute their holdings by offering the public new shares equivalent to 25 per cent of the equity, Orange will become both a FTSE-100 company and the only pure digital player on the London stock market.

As the newest entrant in the marketplace, Orange has been able to introduce a bundled tariff (which is considerably cheaper than its competitors'), target the upper echelons of the market where subscribers are expected to be more loyal, and offer direct access to digital technology - which provides better voice clarity, more efficient capacity, security and opportunities for data transfer.

The criticism of Orange is that it uses a digital standard that does not allow roaming, the technical name for overseas use.

However, this will soon be corrected, with a new phone that allows switching between handsets overseas and the opening up of the Orange spectrum (DCS 1800) in Germany and other places.

Selling any company that is unlikely to move into profit much before 1998 is always going to be a difficult proposition - when there are established profitable players in the marketplace. However, there is no reason to believe that Orange will not eventually establish itself as a premium stock, to accompany what is already seen as a premium brand.

Going coach

THE extradition of the failed property tycoon Jürgen Schneider, whose empire collapsed in 1994 under the weight of its near £2 billion debts, is being held up by a row over £1,000.

German police want Mr Schneider flown back to Germany from the United States first class - to keep him away from the press - but the state of Hesse, which will have to foot the bill, will have none of it. Economy will be the name of the game for Mr Schneider, according to the justice ministry.

Others in Germany, not least the mighty Deutsche Bank which has to write off hundreds of millions of marks, might have wanted to put Mr Schneider on economy rather earlier.

Taxpayers 'will lose £1.1bn' with DIY system

Self-assessment may prove to be bad news for some. Ian Wylie reports

ABOUT 30 million taxpayers will unwittingly hand over more than £5.5 billion in unnecessary tax this year and could be stung for a further £1.1 billion next year when self-assessment is introduced, according to a report published yesterday.

Research carried out by the analyst Mintel for Independent Financial Adviser Promotion says £5.6 billion in tax will be paid needlessly in 1996/97, partly because of errors and misunderstandings thrown up by the allegedly simpler regime of self-assessment.

The claims were dismissed by the Inland Revenue as "ridiculous".

At least 9 million people will be expected to assess their own tax liabilities for the tax year beginning April 1996. While tax of April 1996 will be paid needlessly in 1996/97, partly because of errors and misunderstandings thrown up by the allegedly simpler regime of self-assessment.

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on amounts overdue for more than 28 days, and a further 5 per cent if still unpaid after six months.

Mintel's forecasts for 1996/97 have been based on the self-assessment regime in Australia. Of the 1 million people audited by the Australian Tax office since self-assessment was introduced eight years ago, more than 70 per cent were found to have errors in their tax returns with an average liability of £650 in back taxes and penalties.

The Inland Revenue, however, says that self-assessment will save taxpayers up to £250 million by cutting out the need for assessment appeals and amendments. A spokeswoman said: "There is no evidence to support the report's assertion that self-assessment in Australia covers all taxpayers and is not comparable to the regime being introduced here."

Three out of four people in the UK already pay an average of £180 in unnecessary tax, because they do not manage their tax affairs properly. During the current financial year, Mintel expects £1.06 billion to be wasted by 30 million taxpayers who have long-term bank or building societies in TESSAs, and by more than 4 million non-taxpayers who are not registered to receive their interest gross. Up to £930 billion will be forfeited through poor inheritance tax planning.

Hanson shares continue retreat

Roger Cowe

HANSON'S shares yesterday continued to fall in the wake of its demerger plans after the conglomerate disclosed that all its continuing businesses are struggling to match last year's profit levels.

The company, which plans to split into four units, reported that first quarter pre-tax profits had fallen by £10 million to £282 million.

The shares fell 3.25p to 180.25p, which compares with the price of 211.5p immediately after the demerger announcement.

City analysts, who had

largely anticipated the profits fall, were encouraged by the prospect of recovery in chemical prices and by support for their estimates of the break-up price of the group at around 180p.

Chairman Lord Hanson said the results were in line with expectations following last year's demerger of the miscellaneous US businesses in USI.

"We are ahead of last year after adjusting for USI contributions", he said.

But that increase came only because of the contribution from Eastern, the electricity company acquired last year. It added £75 million to group profits and Hanson said its

profits for the full year would be higher than originally anticipated.

Excluding Eastern's profits, none of the group's four divisions managed to make more profit than last year. Chemicals, which consists of Quantum and SCM, produced profit of £91 million, compared with £106 million in the first quarter of last year. The Consumer business, which is primarily Imperial Tobacco, saw profits slide from £87 million to £81 million.

The Peabody coal mining operation in the US also made less money than last year, while the contribution from building materials and equipment, which will form the

rum of the group after the demerger, was static.

Group chief executive Derek Bonham said Quantum's performance - a drop of almost a third - was highly satisfactory compared to its losses when Hanson bought the company in 1993, and he said other businesses would improve.

Mr Bonham said work was continuing on the demerger but it will be some time before details are worked out.

Hanson has been affected by several seasonal and cyclical factors, which have become more significant for the group as it has narrowed its focus on more volatile industries than in the past.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

Australia 1.95	France 7.53	Italy 2.85	Singapore 2.13
Austria 15.30	Germany 2.20	Malta 0.5425	South Africa 2.42
Belgium 45.00	Greece 369.00	Netherlands 2.47	Spain 194.50
Canada 2.06	Hong Kong 11.70	New Zealand 2.24	Sweden 10.50
Cyprus 0.7075	India 36.32	Norway 9.65	Switzerland 1.78
Denmark 8.51	Ireland 0.850	Portugal 228.50	Turkey 20.945
Finland 7.00	Israel 4.77	Saudi Arabia 5.72	USA 1.5025

Source: Reuters Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

PolyGram hankers after the days of big-selling golden oldies

Mark Miller, European Business Editor

SOME hits you need. Others you wish you had missed. Films and records group PolyGram must be wishing it could have found a 1995 hit to match the success of Four Weddings and a Funeral.

The hit it would rather have missed was the one it took on the foreign exchanges.

The group's film division saw its losses climb from 42 million guilders (£16.8 million) to 68 million guilders as films such as Neil French Kiss and Usual Suspects failed to produce box office revenues to rival those of Four Weddings.

It will be hoping for better things from this year's releases, including Dead Man Walking, whose stars Sean Penn and Susan Sarandon have won Oscar nominations. Sleepers, and



PolyGram sellers... Jon Bon Jovi, the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan, and Janet Jackson



PolyGram sellers... Jon Bon Jovi, the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan, and Janet Jackson



PolyGram sellers... Jon Bon Jovi, the Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan, and Janet Jackson

Transpotting (releaded in Britain today).

PolyGram will also be looking for a better performance from the music division.

Its top five albums, from the likes of the Cranberries, Bon Jovi and Janet Jackson rang up sales of 24 million copies compared with 29 million from its top five in 1995 when Sting, Boys II Men and Bon Jovi (again) led the way.

The biggest problem was

the rise in the guilders against the dollar and the yen.

In local currency terms PolyGram reckons sales climbed by more than 9 per cent but in guilders terms sales showed only a modest rise, from 8.6 billion to 8.8 billion.

The improvement at the pre-tax profit level was even more modest - rising just 0.4 percentage points to 741 million guilders.

PolyGram is looking at

the possibility of a Hollywood acquisition but appears to be finding the asking prices rather steep.

Last year it lost a bidding battle for the Samuel Goldwyn library.

It has cast its eye over television programme maker Spelling Entertainment and has said it would look at MGM.

According to PolyGram's chief executive, Alain Levy: "We're not going to buy for the sake of buying."

Big payoff for United chief

Lisa Buckingham

GRAHAM Wilson, who is resigning as managing director of United News & Media following its planned merger with Lord Hollick's MAI group, is to receive a £288,573 payoff, it emerged yesterday.

Documents related to the proposed merger revealed that Mr Wilson - whose role in the combined boardroom will be assumed by Lord Hollick - was on a two-year service contract. Mr Wilson's annual salary totalled £290,000.

The merger papers also revealed that the self-made socialist millionaire, Lord Hollick will be sitting on a paper profit on his share options of £2.7 million.

Following a 1p fall to 632p in the United share price yesterday, the merger terms value MAI's shares at 494.5p and Lord Hollick has some options with an exercise price as low as 84p.

The share options of Lord

Hollick and his MAI co-directors will be rolled over into share options of United News papers, the documents stated.

Both the United chairman, Lord Stevens, and Lord Hollick have denied that any major adjustments will be needed to the top-level remuneration systems of either company following the merger even though MAI's money brokers can earn some of the largest salaries in the City. At present, Lord Hollick earns £559,000, compared with the £416,547 commanded by Lord Stevens.

MAI's share price remained steady at 422p as speculation continued that Michael Green's Carlton Communications is waiting in the wings to launch a hostile assault.

City analysts say that if Mr Green, who has not to date ever mounted an aggressive bid, is to pounce he will wait for a further fall in the MAI share price.

Lord Hollick's MAI has been dismissive of the possibility of intervention from Carlton's Mr Green.

Inflation prospects on target □ Chancellor absolved over interest rates □ Unemployment tumbles

Bank gives up its hard line

Richard Thomas and Sarah Fyle
THE odds on cuts in interest rates narrowed sharply yesterday, after the Bank of England reversed its opposition to policy easing and delivered an upbeat message on inflation.

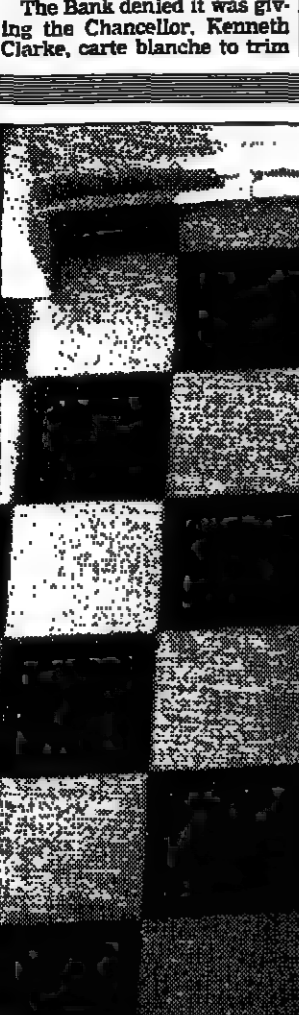
base rates again from the present level of 6.25 per cent. But most City analysts said another downward move was now almost certain, in spite of yesterday's announcement of a huge - 29,300 - fall in unemployment in January.

David Coleman, chief economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said: "It would take a complete turnaround in the economy for Clarke not to cut now. I expect he'll try to get a quarter-point off before the May local elections, and then another one later in the year."

Mervyn King, economics director of the Bank, defended the Bank's decision to argue against January's cut. "It is easy to make policy with hindsight," he said. "If we had known then what the final numbers were to be, our advice would have been different."

"It is clear from the report that the last two interest rate cuts made by the Chancellor were entirely consistent with hitting the inflation target. Signs that wage pressures remain subdued also brightened the outlook for prices, with the Central Statistical Office reporting that pay packets grew by 3.25 per cent over the year to January - the same rate as the previous six months.

But the Bank insisted that the pace of economic growth would pick up later this year, and that stronger consumption - fuelled by hand-outs from building society flotations - could fuel prices and endanger the inflation target. Continued strong expansion in the demand for money was also a concern.



Chairman Sir Simon Hornby admits the situation with Lloyds Abbey Life is tricky

Lloyds holds its Life in its hands

OUTLOOK/Lisa Buckingham on insurance subsidiary's duplicate problems

IT'S official. The newly created Lloyds TSB banking group is stuck between a rock and a hard place with its majority-owned financial services group Lloyds Abbey Life.

their performance with the two life operations, also including Lloyds Bank Insurance Services, lifting their share of a market that remains depressed, thanks to the appalling reputation of life insurance sales people and last year's introduction of expense disclosure.

The outlook was helped by the disposal of the group's loss-making German life company, Trans Leben, as well as the sale of Lloyds Bowmaker's portfolio of first mortgages. And, longer term, the signs for Lloyds Abbey Life are rosy. A low inflation economy means savers increasingly look for investment products that provide better than the paltry returns available on building society accounts. Nervousness about the erosion of state benefits is expected to drive the demand for insurance products against tragedies such as unemployment. And fears that

the Government will refuse to provide for the old and infirm will encourage the purchase of long-term health care.

So understandable scepticism of insurance sellers will, before long, make way in the face of the fear on which all insurers trade.

All this would have been good news for Lloyds, which owns more than 60 per cent of LAL. But the merger with TSB means there is now an awful lot of duplication - TSB has its own life sales and underwriting capability which mirrors that offered by LAL. As stock market speculation has been suggesting, Sir Simon yesterday admitted the situation was tricky.

Environment prize for Thorn EMI

Roger Cove
THORN EMI yesterday won an award for its annual environmental report for the second successive year, beating National Power into second place.

Underside Dan Atkinson

WITH its usual brilliant timing, HM Treasury removed its bomb-proof net curtains some weeks ago, on the grounds that the threat of IRA attack had receded. Nobody told the terra. A spokesman said the curtains, (weighted at the bottom and designed to billow in a blast) now re-hung post-bombing, were removed also from two other ministries, MAFF and the Foreign Office.

to the paper's offices in Grosvenor Square. One neighbour means that a controversial newspaper which might run exposés of business creates an unacceptable security risk.

AS the dust settles from the Granada/Forte battle, news of an internal memo at London's Evening Standard. Editor Max Hastings - an old shooting pal of Sir Rocco Forte - is understood to have informed the paper's picture desk that "Rocco does not like to be photographed wearing his glasses".

AFTER cinematic product placement comes product displacement/non-placement. Have a hunch it's at Seven, the top film in the UK - at least until Heat took over. Super production values, but Anne of Green Gables it isn't. A series of murders based on the seven deadly sins kicks off with greed where a grotesque is murdered by spaghetti diners. What is hilarious after all these films with heavy-handed product placement - Arnie drinking Budweiser with his Kellogg's, James Bond's Omega watch - is that the tins of sauce in grease's flat have a made-up label. No Heinz or Paul Newman's Own here.

BACK to the Treasury, which, we hear, boasts of being the first ministry to have a full staff list with telephone extensions on the Internet. The words "kind of sad" spring to mind.

Japan plans successor to Concorde

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo
JAPAN is to form a team under government research will also concentrate on developing lightweight but strong and heat-proof materials for the body, and on reducing the aircraft's noise in flight. The initial target is to get a small unmanned prototype off the ground by the early years of the next century, powered by rocket engines, with a bigger aircraft using small jet engines ready by 2002 to 2004.

News in brief

US-style liability is ruled out for Britain

THE Law Commission has ruled out the introduction of proportionate liability, which would have followed the United States in protecting professional partnerships such as accountants from multi-million-pound legal actions for negligence. Negligence insurance is no longer available for leading accountancy firms, some of which have sought protection for individual partners by incorporation as limited companies or by becoming resident in the Channel Islands.

Tesco complaint upheld

TESCO'S complaint against the International Fund for Animal Welfare, over the campaign group's full-page press advertisements making a connection between Tesco's Canadian salmon and seal culling, has been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA).

Higher car output likely

CAR production from British factories is expected to increase by 3.8 per cent to 1.59 million cars this year, according to revised forecasts agreed yesterday at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. The analysis, due for ratification and official publication next week, will predict higher output on the back of increased exports beyond Europe. Last October the industry pencilled in 1996 production at 1.55 million. - Chris Barrie

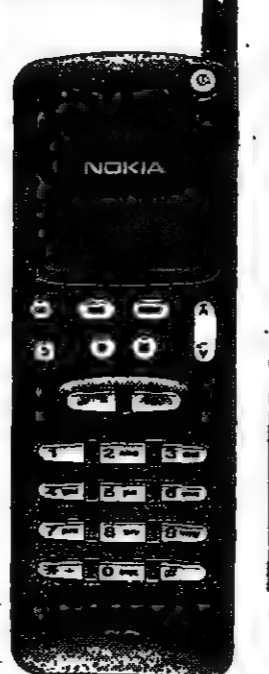
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Mulligan first th

John 1/10/96

Plans for... corde

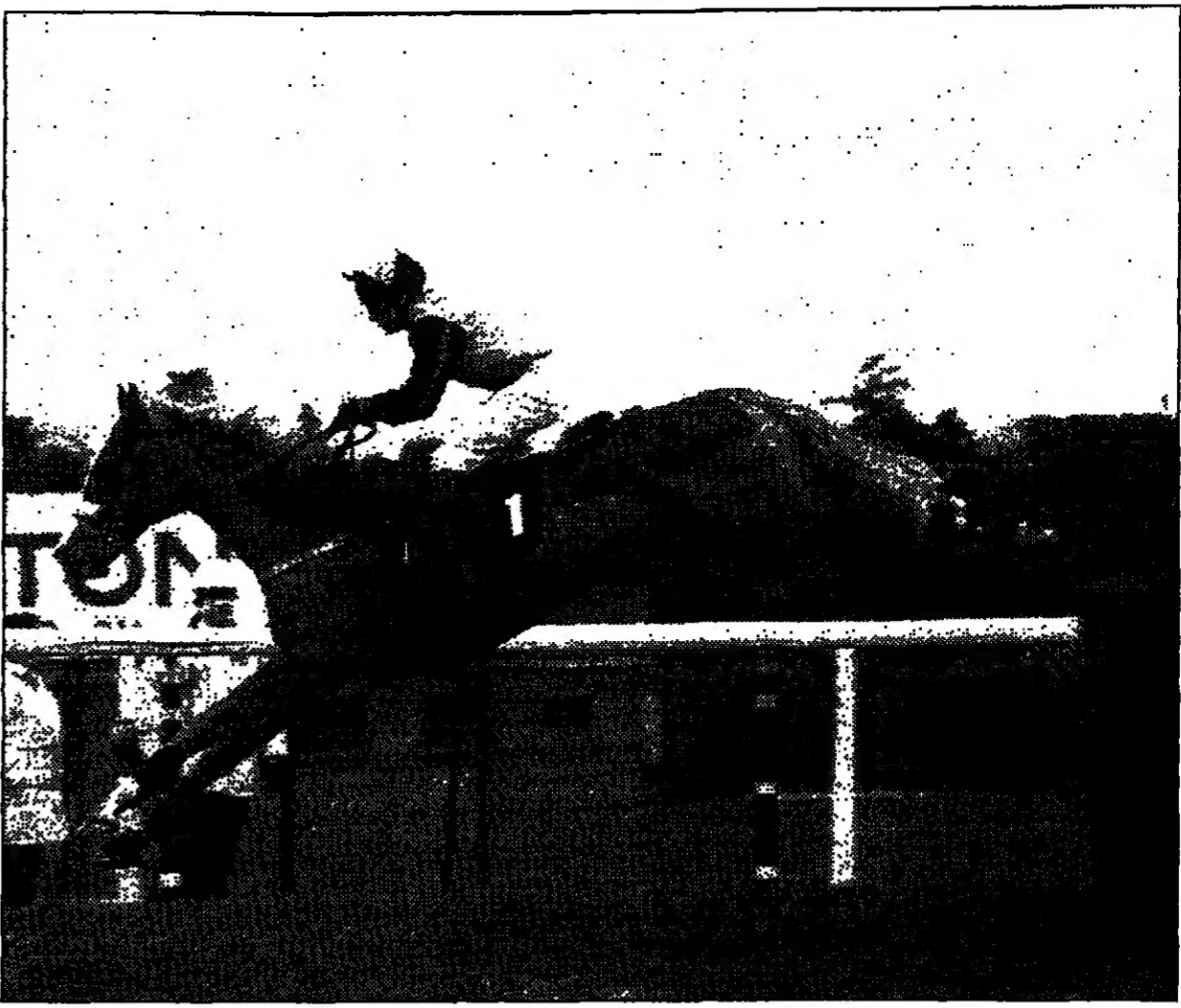
Racing Mr Mulligan glints gold but first the Sun Alliance

CHRIS HAWKINS MR MULLIGAN was quoted as low as 14-1 by Ladbrokes for next year's Cheltenham Gold Cup after pulverising his opponents in the Reynoldstown Chase at Ascot yesterday.

work anything with him at home, he just kills them," said his trainer, Noel Chance. "His next gallop will be at Cheltenham - he doesn't need much work and he doesn't do any schooling. In fact, I hate schooling horses because sooner or later they're going to make a mistake."

being few and far between, there is great affection for him. Much of this is no doubt because of his equally resilient trainer, Jim Old, for whom 40 days and nights in the wilderness would seem like a picnic.

As regards the Champion Hurdle, Bailey expects and hopes that Norman Williamson will be fit enough to resume. Sound Man shored up his position as favourite for the Kingwell Mother Champt Chase, being generally on offer at 7-4, when winning the Comet Chase.



Touch down... Mr Mulligan on his way to victory in yesterday's Reynoldstown Chase

Sandown with form guide

Table of race results for Sandown, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table of race results for Lingfield (A.W. Flat), including race numbers, names, and winners.

Towcester

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Towcester

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Taunton runners and riders

Table of race results for Taunton, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Lingfield (A.W. Flat)

Table of race results for Lingfield (A.W. Flat), including race numbers, names, and winners.

Towcester

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Towcester

Table of race results for Towcester, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a grid of race results for various tracks like Sandown, Towcester, Lingfield, and Thurlow.

Soccer

Innocents abroad on hooligan blacklists

Martin Thorpe

SUPPORTERS are being placed on international police hooligan blacklists even though they are innocent of any offences. As a result some have already been jailed and deported from countries they were visiting to support their team. Other fans fear this will happen next time they go abroad.

The revelations are contained in tonight's On The Line programme on Radio Five Live which examines the experiences of 123 Leeds fans in the Netherlands for last November's game with PSV Eindhoven and of two Wales fans who, four years ago, discovered their names on a list held by Brussels police.

It is common practice for the name of any British fan arrested abroad on their way to, or at, a match to be entered on to a computer list, information which is exchanged with other countries. The policy is not to circulate the names of people accused only of trivial offences. But it does not always work out like that.

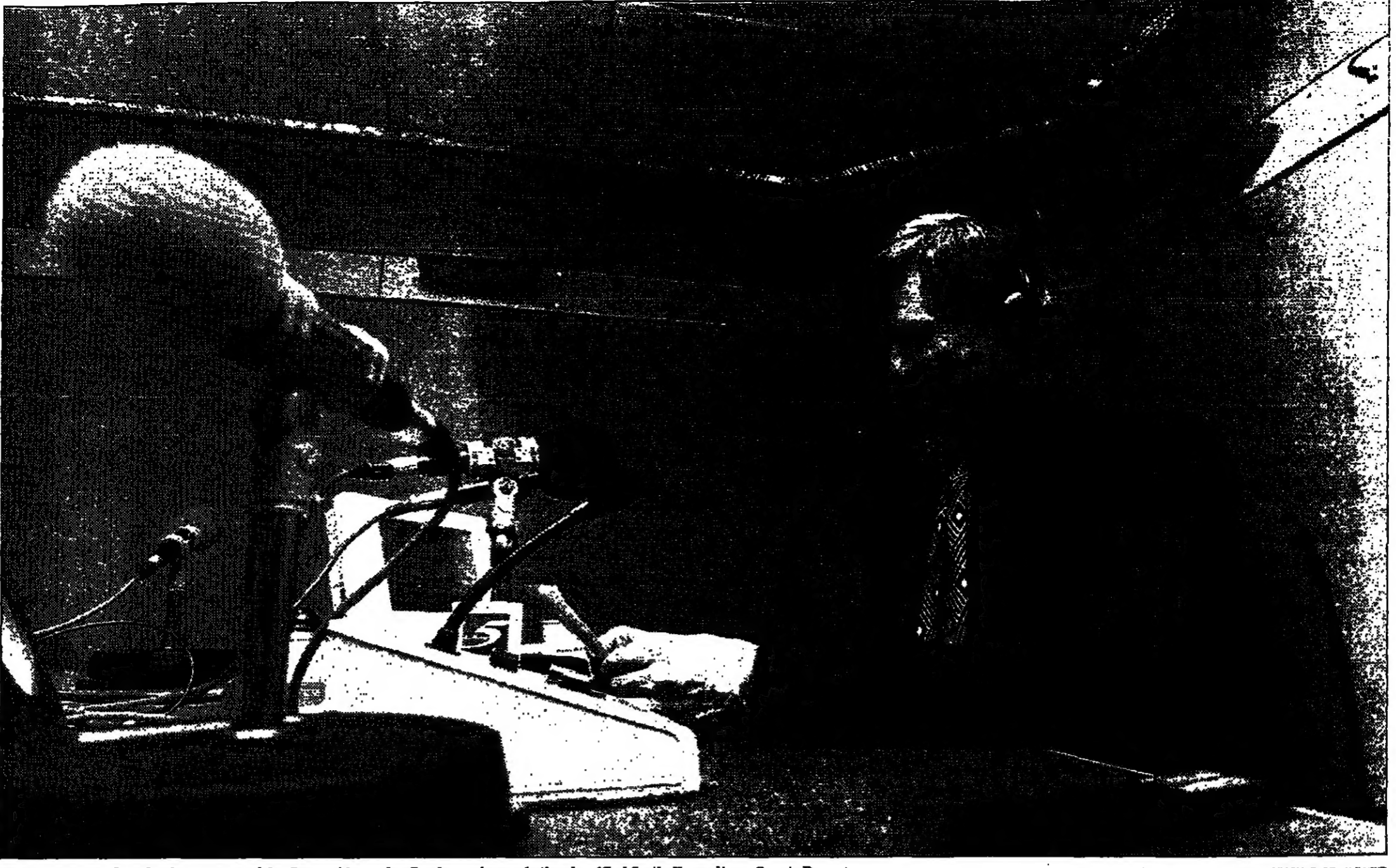
The Leeds fans, on a package trip and in possession of match tickets, were arrested by Dutch police in Eindhoven for not carrying their passports. They were handcuffed, kept in freezing cells overnight and deported the following day without charge. They were not allowed to retrieve their belongings or the cars some had brought on the ferry.

The passport law had been recently introduced by the Dutch and the fans, who had left their passports in their hotels for safe-keeping, were unaware of it. But all 123 names are now on the Dutch hooligan list. Lex Weisz, who runs the Dutch Centre for Information on Football Vandalism, says "people arrested at a football match here are registered in our database. It is believed the names of British fans detained abroad are passed on to the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

Andy Peterson, one of the Leeds fans, said: "We were never charged. No name down as a potential troublemaker and possibly barred from entering other European countries is very disturbing."

In November 1980 Gwyllem Boore and his brother Rhys, on their way to see Wales play in Limerick, were taken off a train because of a fight which had nothing to do with them. Their baggage was searched and they were photographed before being allowed to travel on.

Two years later they were at Brussels station where they chose to go through a voluntary identity check. "I saw the police had a list," says Gwyllem, "and I saw my name and my brother's on it."



One in a thousand... business as usual for James Alexander Gordon as he reads the classified football results on Sports Report

The unflappable master of classified information

John Duncan on James Alexander Gordon, who reads the scores on Sports Report

MOST love affairs start with a kiss. James Alexander Gordon's began with the words Arsenal 0, Cardiff City 0, when, on August 18 1973, the classic voice of the classified football results was heard for the first time on BBC radio's Sports Report. Last Saturday Jag, as he is more usually known at the BBC, celebrated his 1,000th programme and his 80th birthday.

"I just came in one day and Jimmy Kingsbury, the BBC's presentation editor, said, 'Right you're doing the football results.' Anyway I took a whole load of results back home with me and worked on getting the sound right. I tried to think of the people who were listening and eventually I got this image of an old bloke checking his coupon, and I thought yes, that's it."

Jag's excited voice, boyish enthusiasm and the smothering warmth of his contentment with life contrast sharply with his firm, slightly severe radio persona. On the air it is a voice with priestly incantations for worshippers of the treble chance, a voice from the old school that perfectly suits the cheerful Empire signature tune the programme has had since 1968.

Alexander Gordon pioneered the lyrical up-and-down intonation that tells you in cadences what his voice has not yet put into words. Arsenal 1 (two notes the same, third higher, slightly hopeful, not had, you got a goal Arsenal, don't be too glib), Chelsea (slightly surmised, a huge but unspoken "but" that tells you a number greater than one is on its way,

ending with delighted last syllable, this is an away win after all, well done Chelsea) 2. Alexander Gordon's life has been as up, down and difficult to negotiate as any of his own classified tongue twisters. Born in 1938 in Edinburgh, he contracted polio at three months. "I was in and out of hospital to the age of 15, so I had no formal education but I read all the time. My dad used to give me books and I once read the whole of the Encyclopaedia Britannica because I had nothing else to do."

As well as leg irons and a back brace as a child he had to work on his speech, which had also been affected. "Me and my dad used to joke about it. People would say 'What's he going to do?' and I would say in this odd voice 'I'm gonna be a newspaperman.' My dad set up a microphone on the radio during the war and I used to go under the table and make up commentaries on events and football matches and interviews. They all thought I was loopy. But when I was first on radio my mum said she found my dad in the bedroom crying. She asked him why and he said 'The little bugger's done it. It was the only time I ever heard of him showing emotion like that.'

A youngling Alexander Gordon came down to London in the Sixties to work as a rep in the music business and quickly found himself in the Denmark Street thick of swinging London. "Jim Hendrick came into the office once looking for someone else and he said to me, 'Hey man, do you smoke grass? Well, I was pretty naive and I hadn't ever heard of it, so I just said, 'No, I smoke Condor.' From then on, whenever we met, he used to laugh and ask me if I had any Condor on me."

One day in 1973, having recorded a small voice piece for a religious television programme he was in a pub near Broadcasting House when a man heard him talking, came over and asked him if he had been on television the night before. It was Kingsbury, who had been told to get some Scottish voices among the BBC's presenters. A week's trial and Alexander Gordon was in. A year later came his break on Sports Report.

Since then he has carved a reputation as one of the most unflappable broadcasters in Britain. "You could let a bomb off next to me and I wouldn't bat an eyelid. One time a studio manager accidentally played rock music through my headphones as I was reading the results. I carried on but started pointing to my headphones. He fiddled with some knobs and all of a sudden I've got Beethoven's Fifth in there. I had every radio channel on the earth at some point during that five minutes but when I listened to it later, you wouldn't have known."

"He didn't even flinch when a BBC messenger with whom he jointly did the pools jumped up and down outside the studio indicating that they had finished the broadcast. Dividends, sadly, were low that week."

Two questions are inevitable. Who does he support himself (Falkirk) and what does he do for the rest of the week? "I don't know whether I should tell you this, but I've started composing music."

From the classified results to a classical score, from treble chance to a bass clef, James Alexander Gordon is I

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Atkinson looks to plug the gaps

RON ATKINSON, the single-appearing Coventry City manager, was yesterday talking to Crewe's Northern Ireland defender Neil Lennon with a view to a £250,000 move to the Premier League club.

Atkinson, who has been looking to strengthen his relegation-threatened squad recently, made his move after the two clubs' chairmen agreed a fee once Crewe were knocked out of the FA Cup by Southampton on Tuesday.

The Crewe manager Darjo Gradi said: "He is ready for the Premiership. In fact I am surprised no one has come in for Neil before."

Lennon, aged 24, made a single appearance for Manchester City when he was 17 but joined Crewe on a free transfer in August 1980. He has since played more than 100 league games for the Cheshire side.

Atkinson is also considering a £1 million deal for the Birmingham City midfielder Paul Tait, who has been allowed to link up with the Highfield Road club to train and turn out for the reserves.

The Birmingham City manager Barry Fry said: "Tait is part of my future plans but I don't think he's fully fit yet after a knee injury; we've told him to speak to Ron Atkinson if he wants to. I'm not pushing it either way."

Fry, however, has rejected a similar bid from Leicester City for the striker Steve Claridge, whose talks over a new contract at St Andrews have broken down. Fry added: "I don't want Steve to go but I cannot knock my board as he has had two new contracts since he arrived here just over two years ago."

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer (AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION, First Division Wimbledon 0, Swindon 3), Tennis (LTA NEWS SATELLITE), and Ice Hockey (WHL Detroit 5, Los Angeles 4).

Table of sports results including Bowls (CHURCHILL INSURANCE WORLD BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS), Cricket (SHEFFIELD SHELDS, Perth 0 Queensland 154), and Hockey (REPRESENTATIVES, Army 2, Oxford 0).

Atkinson looks to plug the gaps

Wimbledon and Ipswich Town look forward to the fifth round of the FA Cup

Holdsworth kick-started by Kinnear's dropped hint

Portman brotherhood put their faith in the prowess of Mason

UAE irate at new cup rules

ENGLAND's next World Cup opponents yesterday declared themselves to be "just babes" in view of all the help they can get, but unfortunately for Mike Atherton's embattled men the United Arab Emirates were not exactly running up the white flag before a ball is bowled in Sunday's match in Peshawar.

Rather, UAE officials were set up in arms at the stricter player-residency rules which the International Cricket Council will introduce after this World Cup, which will probably end the Emirates' chances of playing in future tournaments and the officials say, will badly hit the game's development in the Gulf.

The incoming rule that a team must include at least seven citizens, who normally live in the country they represent for 360 days for each of five years, would certainly have prevented the UAE making their World Cup debut in a game against South Africa in Rawalpindi. They have just taken two nationals in their 14-man squad.

Cricket

UAE irate at new cup rules

The rest are Indians, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans who have gone to work in the oil-rich Gulf in recent years.

The Emirates board's chief co-ordinator Vikram Kaul said: "The history of cricket shows that the sport was introduced to many parts of the world by expatriate players. We have only been playing seriously for the last 15 years. We need more time to encourage local cricketers to come through — at least 10 years."

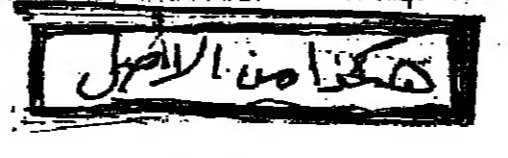
"We are struggling to develop in our country. We just babes. We need help."

Bonetti and Laws reunited

IVANO BONETTI and Brian Laws last night publicly buried their differences before Grimsby Town's FA Cup tie with West Ham United.

The Italian midfielder, who spent part of the week in hospital after reportedly being struck by his manager, has accepted an apology and will stay with the club. The news was delivered about his future conduct by the FA disciplinary committee over a New Year's Day incident during a League match at Derby.

The charge followed Megson's remarks to the Stoke referee Jim Rushton in the Basford Ground players' tunnel at half-time.



Athletics

Modahl sues BAF for £500,000

Stephen Bierley

DIANE MODAHL, who failed a drug test at a meeting in June 1994 but was cleared by an independent appeal panel last August, yesterday issued a writ against the British Athletic Federation to claim compensation estimated at more than £500,000.

Rugby League

Nines mean no rest for Wigan

John Huxley

WIGAN'S early dismissal from the Challenge Cup put further demands on their players yesterday just when they may have expected a break as the club starts the new season's Super League.

Sport in brief

Samantha Brewster has endured a difficult passage across the Southern Ocean in the 67th Heath Insured, writes Bob Fisher. The solo yachtswoman, aiming to break Mike Golding's 161-day record, encountered a severe storm 23 days out from Cape Horn.

She added: "I feel I have been betrayed by the very organisation I have served and supported for many years as a top British athlete. I had to fight every inch of the way to establish my innocence."

Wales, likewise denied freedom of choice, also called up two Keighley players, the centre Jason Critchley and the back-row forward Gareth Cochrane as well as the 21-year-old John Donno, who has just joined Widnes from the Warrington amateur club Woolston.

Wales, likewise denied freedom of choice, also called up two Keighley players, the centre Jason Critchley and the back-row forward Gareth Cochrane as well as the 21-year-old John Donno, who has just joined Widnes from the Warrington amateur club Woolston.

77.77, steered Victoria to a commanding 202 for two in coming to South Australia's 309 all out at the close of the second day in Melbourne.



Life of Bryan... the Scotland scrum-half flies in the face of France during the 19-14 victory at Murrayfield this month

Redpath lives out No.9 dream

Gordon Lyle on the big wee guy known as Basil, who holds the recipe for success against Wales in Cardiff this Saturday

AT LONG last Bryan Redpath, the 5ft 7in Scotland scrum-half, is walking tall. While most would assume it is a pressure applied by three other capped Scottish No.9s — Gary Armstrong, Derrick Patterson and Andy Nicol — that keeps Redpath turning on the style going into Saturday's match with Wales in Cardiff, one player thinks differently.

Crash clouds world event

A HIGH-SPEED collision during a training run for the women's downhill event put a Russian skier and an American race official in hospital yesterday as the row grew over whether the Sierra Nevada world championship course is too fast for safety.

Fixtures

Table listing various sports fixtures including Soccer, Rugby Union, Cricket, Hockey, and Ice Hockey with dates and venues.

against France and helped set up Kevin McKenzie's against Ireland with one of the raking kicks that are as much his hallmark as a long spin-pass.

"I'm the first to admit I've taken a lot of encouragement from the selectors continuing to make me No.1," Bryan says. "But I think they were lenient to the team in general after the A defeat in Italy a few weeks ago."

Pain in Spain... Lebedeva awaiting the hospital airlift

quick thinking and managed to avoid smashing her skis into his upper body," said the former Olympic Alpine medalist Karl Schranz.

Chess

Kasparov gives Deep Blue its due and draw

of a top human at the leisureed pace of classical chess. Deep Blue began with the same unbookish 2 c3 system against Kasparov's Sicilian Defence which brought the computer its dramatic victory in the series' first game. But it varied at move 12 and by move 20 the queens were exchanged and Kasparov was trying unsuccessfully to win the endgame.

Tennis

Muster finds it tough at the top

THOMAS MUSTER'S first match as the world No.1 ended in disaster at the Dubai Open yesterday when he was defeated 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 by Australia's Sandon Stolle.

Rugby Union

Taylor made to foil Scots

Robert Armstrong

THE unmistakable SOS that England's manager Jack Rowell has sent out to Dean Richards will strike a sympathetic chord with Hemi Taylor as the Wales No.8 tries to bring Scotland's back row to a grinding halt at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday.

"We held the England forwards but we did not more than that and we know we'll have to step up a gear against Scotland," said Taylor, who played in Wales's stunning defeat at Murrayfield last year.

"We must not allow them to dominate the scrums or to step into their game-plan and counter-attack from their scrum-half Robert Howley. The scrums more than we did against England, win at least as much line-out ball and force the Scots into making mistakes around the fringes."

"I've played against their scrum-half Robert Howley when Scotland Under-21 went down 28-19 at Stirling four years ago. He's a strong runner who is low to the ground and difficult to bring down. Here's hoping that account can be squared."

"The Scottish back row have something of a hit-and-run attitude and we'll be conscious of the need to make some big tackles, which I think we have the confidence to do as often as it takes. Their fly-half Gregor Townsend often pulls two defenders on to him due to his line of running and the unpredictable way he plays keeps his own forwards switched on. Of course you can say much the same thing about Arwel Thomas."

As Taylor acknowledges, exactly the same job description could be written for Richards.

Snowline

Advertisement for Snowline ski resorts, providing 24hr skilling information, contact numbers (0891 333 541, 0891 662 255), and weatherline information (0891 333 401).

Mr Mulligan one leap ahead, page 13

Innocent fans on police blacklist, page 14

Crash clouds world championship, page 15

Modahl sues for £500,000, page 15

Sports Guardian

Paisley leaves Liverpool mourning

Neil Robinson and Ian Ross

THEY came with flowers, scarves and tributes to Anfield yesterday within hours of the news that Bob Paisley, the most successful manager in the history of the English game, had died in his wife's arms at a Merseyside nursing home. He was 77.

Paisley played over 250 League games for Liverpool between 1946 and 1953, but made a far more significant contribution to the club as manager when he reluctantly succeeded Bill Shankly in 1974.

The next nine years belonged to the softly spoken miner's son who led to the club to unprecedented success: six Championships, three League Cups, three European Cups and a UEFA Cup.

"He was Liverpool through and through," said the club's former captain Emlyn Hughes, who shared many of those achievements. "When I arrived in 1967 he was trainer-cum-teaboy. When Bill Shankly finished Bob took over with great reluctance and went on to do what most people thought was impossible — improve on Shankly's achievements."

"He was one of the last of the old school: people like him probably wouldn't survive these days with the way the game has changed."

Other Liverpool players, past and present, joined the tributes. Mark Lawrenson described him as "the last great manager that this country has seen. He is going to be eventually mentioned in the same breath as Busby, as Shankly, Jock Stein and Brian Clough. That list is synonymous with the great managers."

Newcastle's manager Kevin Keegan, whose last game for Liverpool saw lift the European Cup for the

first time, remembered his "honesty and integrity" while Kenny Dalglish, who was bought to replace Keegan, said that of everyone in football he owed Paisley "the greatest debt."

"Everybody took an instant liking to Bob. He was a pal to everybody. He was universally popular but he wouldn't hesitate to ruffle feathers. He was very unassuming."

"The man was somebody who went right through the card at Anfield. After finishing playing, he became a physiotherapist, then went into training management and finally directorship."

"At every single stage he

made a massive contribution to the success of Liverpool. He made so many right decisions because of his deep knowledge of the game."

Liverpool's current manager Roy Evans recalled the day in 1974 when Paisley suggested he abandon his career in the club's reserve side and concentrate on coaching. "I am deeply grateful. But for him I wouldn't be the manager of this club now and I might not be in football at all."

Paisley, a shy man who steered away from the public spotlight, would probably have been faintly embarrassed by the

warmth of yesterday's outpourings. In the forward to Stephen Kelly's 1991 history of the club he summed up his role as merely playing "a part in the story of the club's success."

"I have been part of the furniture at Anfield for the best part of half a century and I think I can safely say I know something of what makes Liverpool tick."

By then he had already been diagnosed as suffering from Alzheimer's Disease which blighted his final years. It was a sad end for one of the game's great men.

And on the seventh day he resigned



John Duncan

THE brief reign of Kevin Cullis as manager of Swansea City is over. He has resigned "for personal reasons" seven days after being appointed, his (Vetch) field of dreams now a shoulder-deep quagmire.

This is not just another sorry tale of managerial insecurity in the lower leagues. Kevin Cullis's promotion to league manager was intergalactic.

The story starts with a change of ownership at Swansea itself. Enter Michael Thompson, Birmingham businessman (heavy engineering), close friend of Howard Walker, son of Blackburn's Jack Thompson had business interests in Swansea, his sister lived there and he wanted a football club. Six weeks of negotiations with the then chairman Doug Sharpe and, for a reputed £500,000, the club, which had gone through three managers this season — Frank Burrows, Bobby Smith and Jimmy Rimmer — was his.

Big names, high profile new bosses were promised — Ian Rush, Graham Taylor, Dave Bassett among them — and interviews were conducted.

There was a hushed silence as the appointment was announced last Wednesday. Kevin who? Did they mean Stan Cullis? Rothmans could not tell them who he was; even the Non-League Football Yearbook could not shed light. Cradley Town's listing under the Banks's Brewery West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division, between Bloxwich Strikers and Sitting-shall Holy Trinity, does not mention him. Nonetheless Cullis, Cradley's youth team manager, was now manager of Second Division Swansea.

though Molesworth was indeed one of Liverpool's many scouts, he had never found them a player.

Cullis, at his first training session, told the players they had three weeks to impress him or they were out — this from a man who had never played or managed in the league. A 1-0 defeat at home to the leaders Swindon was not bad, though the Swansea programme seemed underwhelmed by the new gaffer. His only Notes as manager had him as Keith Cullis.

At this point the former chairman Sharpe came back from a holiday in Spain and, it is said, was not amused at what he saw. The deal has a 21-day "cooling off" period, which runs out tomorrow, and the season appeared to be in jeopardy. Selling a club is one thing, letting it become a laughing stock another.

CULLIS did not, according to sources, travel on the team bus for the next match, a Tuesday night game at Blackpool. However, he did tell his players of his plan to play a sweeper that night, despite the fact that they had never practised the system. At half-time they were 2-0 down.

Dressing-room reports suggest that at the interval Cullis was left open-mouthed in a corner as the players took control. A senior player gave the half-time talk, the sweeper system was abandoned but Swansea still went down 4-0. Cullis went straight to Thompson and resigned.

But why was he appointed in the first place? "My initial reaction was I don't believe it," said Alf Hills, of Cradley. "I thought blimey, I wonder if they'll ask me to be the next England manager." Thompson said the club needed the enthusiasm and drive of an unproven manager.

Cullis himself said he applied because he was a good friend of the new chairman — Cullis is a civil engineer by trade, though he has been a director of a number of companies including a Shrewsbury nightclub. Thompson's recollection is that he had heard of Cullis but did not really know him.

So it was over. It is not the shortest reign ever — that honour belongs to Bill Lambton at Scunthorpe, who lasted three days in April 1959. Rimmer takes over for Saturday's six-pointer against last-placed Hull. All supporters can hope is that the farcical managerial ballet of the past week does not end with the dying Swans.

Farsley lad rumbles England

Edward Harris in Ahmedabad

RAY ILLINGWORTH always argues that Farsley Cricket Club and the tough Bradford League, where he cut his teeth, provides the best possible grounding for a young player.

As much as Illingworth might enjoy being proved right again, it must have pained the England manager yesterday to watch the latest Farsley product push his side to a sixth successive one-day defeat.

This time it was not South Africa and the hostile thrusts of Allan Donald but Ahmedabad and the gentle proings of New Zealand. However, the performance and result were just as miserable.

England lost their World Cup opener by 11 runs and the architect of New Zealand's unexpected success was 24-year-old Nathan Astle who, unlike many of the rebuilt Kiwi side, was not unknown to Illingworth.

England's manager has seen plenty of the well-organised opener at Leeds, where Illingworth still enjoys getting a way from it all among friends at the little club a gentle stroll from his Leeds home. Astle spent two summers improving his cricket education with Farsley and Illingworth said: "I knew he could play a bit. Normally for us [Farsley] he bats sensibly at first and then gets

on with it, but today he did it from the world go."

Illingworth could have added that Astle should have been stopped dead in his tracks on one, but Graham Thorpe failed to hold on to a low slip chance in Dominic Cork's second over of the day. Astle went on to score 101 — his fourth century in his last 11 one-day internationals.

Thorpe's drop was the most difficult of four chances put down by England yesterday. "The missed catches were vital," said England's captain Mike Atherton. "We could have had them two for two at one stage. The fielding was poor but I don't think our general performance — the batting and the bowling — could be faulted that much."

Thorpe also dropped the other New Zealand opener Craig Spearman on one while Atherton and Cork spilled sitters that, while not costly, were symptomatic of a team who's fielding is at best a handicap and at worst a liability.

Atherton had gambled against Illingworth's instincts and decided to bowl first. The result was a total of 239 for six — the highest made at the Motera Stadium in a one-day international on the notoriously slow pitch.

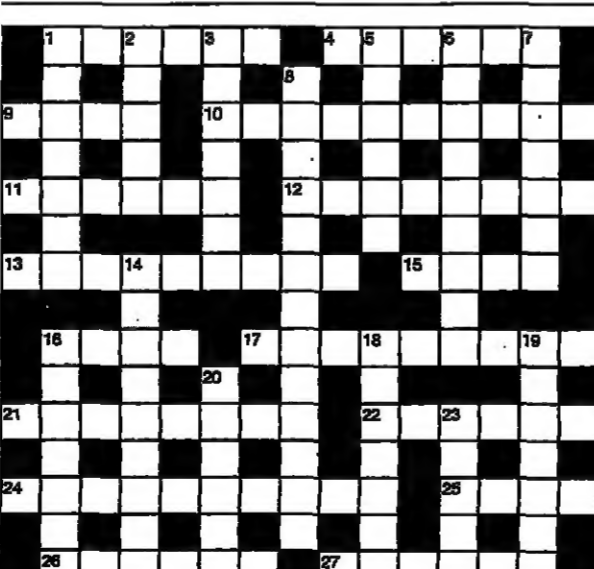
The result should make little difference to England's chances of reaching the quarter-finals and victories against the United Arab Emirates (Sunday) and Holland (Thursday) will probably see them through. Defeat, however, was, as Illingworth agreed: "A blow to the pride. We expect to beat New Zealand and we didn't".

England's reply was tripped up on leaving the blocks when Atherton was bowled in Dion Nash's first over. The England captain momentarily caused astonishment among the 20,000 crowd by refusing to leave his crease with his leg ball lying on the ground but they soon cottoned on to the fact that he was staying put to act as a runner for Hick, who had hurt his left hamstring chasing a ball around the boundary.

While Hick was swatting the ball to all parts, victory was always possible. But Neil Fairbrother called for a single. Atherton hesitated when he saw Roger Twose dive to stop at cover, and by the time England's captain set off again it was too late. He — or rather Hick — was run out by a couple of feet on 85. And with the rest of the batting subsiding, that was just about that.



1. MICHEL ART HERTON	1
2. ALEC STEWART	35



Guardian Crossword No 20,576

- Across**
- 1 Bound to have a prior engagement (4,2)
 - 4 A sick benefit prescription? (5)
 - 9 Fastener for a jumper (4)
 - 10 Holds until completely motionless (10)
 - 11 Let Eva twirl in the dance (5)
 - 12 Unforeseen turn made awkwardly (8)
 - 13 Jane's man of Kent (5)
 - 15 Transported for regimental training (4)
 - 16 Capital punishment (4)
 - 17 Not in the charts? Not even recorded (3,3,3)
 - 21 Dead estate agent (5)
 - 22 It's used for ponding with a mortar (5)
 - 24 One who is deep in the letters of Freud and Eliot (10)
- Down**
- 25 Get out of doing something (4)
 - 26 Adjustment in ages for review (5)
 - 27 Fashions suitable to be shown in commercials (5)
 - 1 Wild toper at a party could be left (7)
 - 2 Highflier gets a good score on the course (5)
 - 3 Outvotes? (7)
 - 5 Asian ruler OK amid revolution (5)
 - 6 Flight servant to start work (5,4)
 - 7 The smoke after battle? (7)
 - 8 What is recorded in a ledger, perhaps (6,2,5)
 - 14 Puts restriction on movement and worker strikes (5)

Set by Rufus

- 16 Firmly established sports match? (7)
- 18 Dispensed with red tape and came to the point (7)
- 19 Erases a number to break rules (7)
- 20 Scatter the rest around two points of the compass (5)
- 23 Prime Minister's gone up to rest (5)

Solution tomorrow

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